Frommer's™

Berlin day BY day™

1st Edition

by Kerry Walker

John Wiley & Sons, Ltd

VISIT…

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Contents

15 Favorite Moments 1

1 The Best Full-Day Tours 5
The Best of Berlin in One Day 6
The Best of Berlin in Two Days 10
The Best of Berlin in Three Days 14

2 The Best Special-Interest Tours 17
Something Brewing 18
Kinder Surprise 24
Dark Past, Bright Future 30
New Dimensions 36
Roaring Twenties 40
City Highs 44
Brick in the Wall 50

3 The Best Neighborhood Walks 57
Tiergarten & Potsdamer Platz 58
Nikolaiviertel & Surrounds 62
Museum Island 66
Kreuzberg 70
Kurfürstendamm & Around 74
Unter den Linden & Around 78

4 The Best Shopping 83
Shopping Best Bets 84
Berlin Shopping A to Z 88

5 The Great Outdoors 95
Tiergarten 96
Wannsee & Around 98
Marzahn Gardens 102

6 The Best Dining 105
Dining Best Bets 106
Berlin Dining A to Z 111

7 The Best Nightlife 117
Nightlife Best Bets 118
Berlin Nightlife A to Z 124

8 The Best Arts & Entertainment 131
Arts & Entertainment Best Bets 132
Arts & Entertainment A to Z 135

9 The Best Lodging 139
Lodging Best Bets 140
Berlin Lodging A to Z 145

10 The Best Day Trips & Excursions 151
Schloss Charlottenburg & Around 152
Potsdam 156
Tropical Islands 160

The Savvy Traveler 163
Before You Go 164
Getting There 166
Getting Around 168
Fast Facts 169
Berlin: A Brief History 172
Useful Phrases & Menu Terms 174

Index 177

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A Note from the Publisher

Organizing your time. That's what this guide is all about.

Other guides give you long lists of things to see and do and then expect you to fit the pieces together. The Day by Day guides are different. These guides tell you the best of everything, and then they show you how to see it *in the smartest, most time-efficient way*. Our authors have designed detailed itineraries organized by time, neighborhood, or special interest. And each tour comes with a bulleted map that takes you from stop to stop.

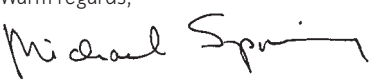
Hoping to view the city from Reichstag, watch the Brandenburg gate lit up at night or see some art on a stretch of the Berlin Wall? Planning to roam the cobbled lanes of medieval Nikolaivertel, stride through the green Tiergarten, jump in an iconic Trabi or just munch on currywurst and take in the scene? Whatever your interest or schedule, the Day by Days give you the smartest routes to follow. Not only do we take you to the top attractions, hotels, and restaurants, but we also help you access those special moments that locals get to experience—those "finds" that turn tourists into travelers.

The Day by Days are also your top choice if you're looking for one complete guide for all your travel needs. The best hotels and restaurants for every budget, the greatest shopping values, the wildest nightlife—it's all here.

Why should you trust our judgment? Because our authors personally visit each place they write about. They're an independent lot who say what they think and would never include places they wouldn't recommend to their best friends. They're also open to suggestions from readers. If you'd like to contact them, please send your comments my way at mspring@wiley.com, and I'll pass them on.

Enjoy your Day by Day guide—the most helpful travel companion you can buy. And have the trip of a lifetime.

Warm regards,



Michael Spring
Publisher
Frommer's Travel Guides

About the Author

Born and raised in Essex, **Kerry Walker**'s itchy feet have taken her to more than 40 countries, inspiring numerous articles, online guides and around 15 travel books. After completing an MA in languages, she turned towards freelance travel writing and settled in the Black Forest, Germany. Kerry jumped at the chance to write this guide to Berlin, a city that never ceases to excite her with its creative edge, electric nightlife and outspoken locals.

About the Photographer

Andy Christiani is a freelance photographer who lives in the Black Forest, Germany. His photography often appears online and has illustrated numerous travel guidebooks.

Acknowledgements

This book is dedicated to Jay Bashir, my friend and former colleague at Whatsonwhen, who suddenly passed away in 2008. He is sorely missed.

Heartfelt thanks to my fiancé and travel companion Andy Christiani for his support and inspiring photography. A great big thank you to Colin and Deborah Herman for helping to arrange our stay in Berlin. Enormous thanks to Michel Henri for the generous loan of his apartment, which made the road to research silky smooth. Special thanks also to Hans Christiani for sharing his childhood memories of Berlin.

An Additional Note

Please be advised that travel information is subject to change at any time—and this is especially true of prices. We therefore suggest that you write or call ahead for confirmation when making your travel plans. The authors, editors, and publisher cannot be held responsible for the experiences of readers while traveling. Your safety is important to us, however, so we encourage you to stay alert and be aware of your surroundings.

Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** Hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and nightlife are rated on a scale of zero stars (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). In addition to the star-rating system, we also use a kids **icon** to point out the best bets for families. Within each tour, we recommend cafes, bars, or restaurants where you can take a break. Each of these stops appears in a shaded box marked with a coffee-cup-shaped bullet .

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

Frommers.com

Now that you have this guidebook to help you plan a great trip, visit our website at **www.frommers.com** for additional travel information on more than 3,500 destinations. We update features regularly to give you instant access to the most current trip-planning information available. At Frommers.com, you'll find scoops on the best airfares, lodging rates, and car rental bargains. You can even book your travel online through our reliable travel booking partners. Other popular features include:

A Note on Prices

In the "Take a Break" and "Best Bets" sections of this book, we have used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for 1 night in a hotel (the price of a double-occupancy room) or the cost of an entrée (main meal) at a restaurant. Use the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

Cost	Hotels	Restaurants
$	under $100	under $10
$$	$100–$200	$10–$20
$$$	$200–$300	$20–$30
$$$$	$300–$400	$30–$40
$$$$$	over $400	over $40

An Invitation to the Reader

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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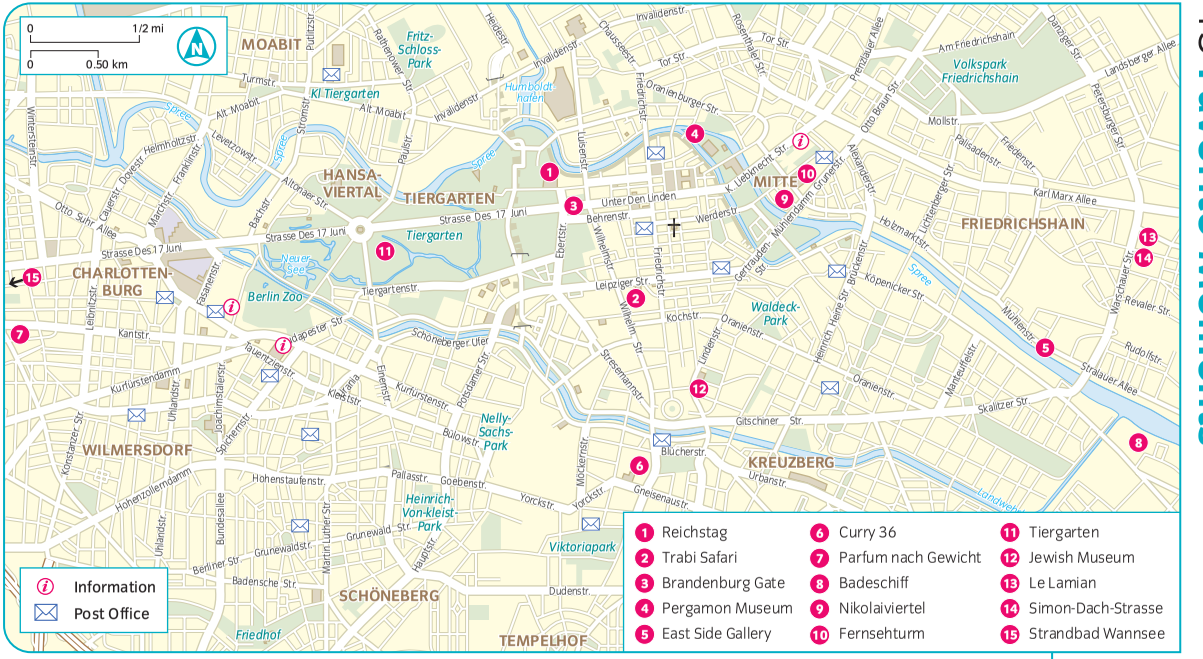
15 Favorite **Moments**

15 Favorite Moments



Berlin thrives on contrasts: from Museum Island's star-studded art to Friedrichshain's turbo-charged nightlife, Kreuzberg's 24-hour buzz to Tiergarten's serene gardens. All at once the German capital is nostalgic and innovative, decadent and down-at-heel. If Berlin were a movie, it would be a thriller; these special moments have me on the edge of my seat.

1 Zooming up to the Reichstag's futuristic cupola. Be among the first to ascend the spiral ramp, as morning light streams through Sir Norman Foster's glass dome. The platform affords far-reaching vistas over Berlin, from the Brandenburg Gate to the Siegessäule. *See p 7.*

2 Getting wild behind the wheel of a Trabi. Go, Trabi, go! Pick your dream machine, pull the choke, and feel your two-stroke splutter past landmarks from the Fernsehturm to the monumental Karl-Marx-Allee. These cult GDR cars are the coolest way to enjoy the sights of Berlin's "Wild East". *See p 53.*

3 Gazing on the Brandenburg Gate by night. The Gate is always mesmerizing, but all the more so when light bathes its Doric columns and chariot Quadriga in gold. Dusk is the best time to snap the triumphal arch and soak up the style of Pariser Platz, with its dancing fountains and street entertainers. *See p 7.*

4 Going back to Babylon at the Pergamon Museum. Get up early and beat the crowds to Berlin's treasure-trove of antiquities. Admire friezes of burly Greek gods as you scale the marble steps to the Pergamon Altar. Then step over to Babylon to pick out mythical unicorns on the Ishtar Gate. *See p 9.*

5 Walking the Wall at the East Side Gallery. Vibrant graffiti works, from spacemen to the politically-charged ***Bruderkuss*** (Brotherly Kiss), always capture my imagination at this unique stretch of Berlin Wall.

Gazing upon the Brandenburg Gate by night.

The open-air gallery offers an insight into a once-divided city, and a brush with its creative side. *See p 54.*

6 Munching *Currywurst* at Curry 36. No trip to Berlin would be complete without a bite of the legendary ***Currywurst*** (curried sausage). Join the queue in Kreuzberg to sink your teeth into this spicy delicacy, dripping in ketchup. Just the smell of it makes me hungry. *See p 16.*

7 Breathing nostalgia at Parfum nach Gewicht. For unique gifts, drop into this enchanting perfumery, filled with the heady scent of French lavender and jasmine. A perfumer by passion, Harry Lehmann still weighs fragrances by the gram on his shiny brass scales. *See p 88.*

8 Chilling on Badeschiff. On hot summer days, few things beat hanging out with Kreuzberg's über-cool crowd at this floating container ship on the River Spree. Hipsters gather to crunch sand between their toes,

take a dip in the pool, and sip daiquiris as DJs spin R'n'B tunes till late. *See p 126.*

9 Roaming the medieval Nikolaiviertel. A warren of courtyards and cobbled lanes, Nikolaiviertel is where Berlin sprung up in the 13th century. I love to ramble along Propststrasse for handmade goodies, pausing at Zum Nussbaum for crispy *Eisbein* (pork knuckles). Come in late afternoon to see the Nikolaikirche blush. *See p 9.*

10 Orbiting above the city at Fernsehturm. Catch a bird's-eye view of the city from its most visible landmark. Rising above Alexanderplatz is this enormous silver bauble, skewered on a needle-thin spike. Its timely wink beckons you to the platform for sweeping views over Berlin. *See p 49.*

11 Striding through Tiergarten. Berlin's green center is best explored on foot. When the sun's out, I join locals to recline under the willows, picnic on the banks of the Spree, or quench my thirst in a leafy beer garden. Take a minute to admire Schloss Bellevue or meet cuddly Knut at the zoo. *See p 96.*

12 Revisiting the past at the Jewish Museum. Daniel Libeskind's lightning-bolt creation takes you on a journey through Jewish-German life. From walking the eerie Memory Void to the isolation of the Holocaust Tower, this museum unleashes emotions that stretch from horror to admiration. *See p 38.*

13 Slurping noodles at Le Lamian. Marvel at Qiu Bao skillfully twisting noodles in the show kitchen at this Friedrichshain Chinese. The signature dish is fresh noodle soup that's light, aromatic, and delicious. Tackle it with both chopsticks. *See p 113.*

14 Partying on Simon-Dach-Strasse. The pulsating heart of Friedrichshain offers non-stop entertainment till the wee hours along its bar mile. Sip a mojito as DJs play disco at Kunstliche BEATmung, before nipping across to Dachkammer for a loft party or Astro Bar for a cosmic encounter. *See p 124.*

15 Building sandcastles at Wannsee. There's no sea for miles, but Berlin does have its own sandy beach on the banks of Wannsee. The city's bustle fades as you kick back in a *Strandkorb* (wicker lounger), devour ice cream, and watch the yachts bob. On clear days, the sunsets are bewitching. *See p 100.*

Partying on Simon-Dach-Strasse.

1 The Best **Full-Day Tours**

The Best of Berlin **in One Day**

This whirlwind tour takes in Berlin's blockbusters from the Reichstag's crystalline bubble, rising high above the city, to a classic stroll down Unter den Linden boulevard. Then it's over to the Nikolaiviertel to tread the cobbles and see the sun plop daintily into the River Spree, rounding out with a cool Berliner Kindl in Zum Nussbaum. Wunderbar. **START: S-Bahn Unter den Linden.**

1 ★★★ Reichstag. Head to the Reichstag (Germany's Parliament) for a knockout view over the city as it wakes up. A lift rises to architect Norman Foster's striking glass cupola, which revamped Berlin's architectural landscape in 1999. There's nothing like the moment you step inside the kaleidoscopic shell, where a mirrored funnel creates an optical illusion; it's like being trapped inside a giant glass spider's web. The 360° panorama of Berlin from the platform is ideal for getting your bearings. *45 min.; best before 10am. Platz der Republik 1. ☎ 030-22-73-21-52. Admission free. Daily 8am–10pm. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.*

A close-up view of Sir Norman Foster's glass cupola at Reichstag.

2 ★★★ Brandenburg Gate. In 1987, Ronald Reagan stood at this spot and cried: "Mr Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" And two years later, he did. Just a few paces from the Reichstag, the Doric columns of the Brandenburg Gate stop you dead in your tracks. Crane your neck to glimpse Victoria, goddess of victory, charging forth on her two-wheeled chariot, Quadriga. Conquering French Emperor Napoleon took a fancy to this feisty beauty in 1804 and whisked her off to the Louvre in Paris; she now stands triumphant above Pariser Platz (Paris Square). Nip back after dark to see the city lights soften the edges of this neoclassical landmark. *20 min. Pariser Platz 1. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.*

The Doric columns of the Brandenburg Gate soar above Platz des 18 März.

3 ★★ Holocaust Memorial. This life-sized jigsaw puzzle pieces together Berlin's troubled past. Peter Eisenman, born in New Jersey in 1932, completed the walkable monument to commemorate the murdered Jews of Europe in 2005.

A field of grey stelae at Peter Eisenman's labyrinthine Holocaust Memorial.

Enter the concrete labyrinth at any point and you soon feel lost: row upon row of wavy stelae (upright stone slabs) appear to ripple off to infinity. It is chilling yet quite beautiful in its austerity. Be sure to visit the **Ort der Information** (Information Center), particularly room 3 that reveals the identity of many Holocaust victims. *30 min. Cora-Berliner-Strasse 1. 030-26-39-43-36. www.holocaust-mahnmal.de. Admission free; donations welcome. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.*

4 ★★★ kids **Unter den Linden.** Watch daily life unfold as you saunter down this sublime boulevard. It's easy to fall for this grand avenue flanked by linden trees, which Germans nickname ***Bäume der Liebe*** (trees of love) because of their heart-shaped leaves. The clip-clop of horses' hooves recalls the days when it was a bridle path for Prussian kings. Look out for the marble façade of the Russian Embassy, the vine-clad courtyard of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin (Berlin State Library), and Humboldt University, where Einstein taught. *45 min. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.*

5 ★ **Café Lebensart.** Pause at this gallery-style café near the Brandenburg Gate for moist poppy sponge and hot chocolate on the terrace. An airbrush painting of 1920s cabaret diva Valeska Gert graces the pepper-red walls. *Unter den Linden 69. 030-44-72-19-30. $.*

6 ★★ **Gendarmenmarkt.** Take a right off Unter den Linden onto Berlin's grandest square and try to figure out what's unusual. Yep, you're seeing double. Gendarmenmarkt is dwarfed by the baroque Deutscher Dom and Französischer Dom, two churches that are the spitting image of each other. Both were built in 1705. At the center of the square, German poet Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805) rises proudly in front of the columned Konzerthaus. The square is fringed by cafés and glorious Art Nouveau townhouses (number 38 is a fine example). When the evening sun hits the cobbled streets it's as if they are, quite literally, paved with gold. *45 min. Gendarmenmarkt. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse.*

Airbrush paintings grace the walls at Café Lebensart.

7 ★★★ **Pergamon Museum.** This cavernous treasure-trove presents a romp through Ancient Greece, Rome, and Babylon. Though its scale is overwhelming, the star exhibits cluster in one area. You start in the Antiquities Collection, harboring the original-sized, reconstructed Pergamon Altar, which catapults you back to 160 BC Greece with its frieze of burly gods doing battle with the Titans. Steep marble steps lead to the Altar Court, where sacrificial rituals took place in the 2nd century BC. If you can tear yourself away from Athens, pop next door to Babylon to marvel at a gate fit for an Assyrian goddess—her name is Ishtar. A close-up of the glazed tiles reveals prancing unicorns and a mythical creature, the symbol of Babylonian god Marduk, with a snake's head, lion's legs, and scorpion's tail. Step back to appreciate the gate's magnitude. Time permitting, venture upstairs for some elaborate oriental carpets. *1½ hr. Am Kupfergraben 5.* ☎ *030-20-90-55-77. www.smb.spk-berlin.de. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ students, free for children under 16. Daily 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse.*

8 ★★★ **Berliner Dom.** This neo-Renaissance cathedral built in 1895 grabs your attention; its voluptuous cupolas contrast with the needle-thin Fernsehsturm (Television Tower) in the background. Its centerpiece is a 70m dome. Each of its intricate mosaics depicting Biblical scenes is inlaid with 500,000 stones in myriad colors. For a different perspective, climb 267 steps to the upper gallery. The view stretches across Museumsinsel to the Reichstag and flame-red Rotes Rathaus (Red Town Hall). *45 min. Am Lustgarten 1.* ☎ *030-20-26-91-36. Admission 5€ adults, 3€ students, free for children under 16. Mon–Sat 9am–8pm, Sun 12pm–8pm. U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse.*

The Hohenzollern coat of arms in the crypt of the Berliner Dom.

9 ★★ kids **Nikolaiviertel.** Edging south, the laid-back Nikolaiviertel quarter is a great escape from the central bustle. Its cobbled lanes and hidden courtyards time-warp you back to the Middle Ages. Allow at least an hour to explore its cafés and boutiques. For unique teas, visit **Teeladen** (p 92); young kids won't want to miss the cuddly critters and dolls in **Die Puppenstube** (p 94). Note the enamel signs above many shops: a pipe for the tobacconist, a pretzel for the baker. Dominating the square is the twin-spired, 13th-century Nikolaikirche (p 157, bullet **2**); come in late afternoon to see its bricks blush. *1 hr. U-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

10 ★★ **Zum Nussbaum.** Once the sun starts dropping, kick back with a beer on the terrace at one of Berlin's oldest watering holes. Right opposite Nikolaikirche, this bar oozes musty charm in rooms filled with the hum of chatter and whiffs of *Berliner Eisbein* (pork knuckles). *Am Nussbaum 3.* ☎ *030-242-30-95. $.*

The Best of Berlin **in Two Days**

On your second day, make a date with Rembrandt first thing, and then discover the heart of 21st-century Berlin in Potsdamer Platz. Squeeze in a boutique shop at Hackesche Höfe and a spin around the Scheunenviertel, pausing to ogle the simply Moorish Neue Synagogue. Detour for Warhol at Hamburger Bahnhof before a cruisy afternoon in Tiergarten, taking in landmarks such as Siegessäule and Schloss Bellevue that recall when Berlin was the epicenter of the Kingdom of Prussia (1701–1918). **START: S-Bahn Potsdamer Platz.**

1 ★★★ Gemäldegalerie. Raphael, Caravaggio, Vermeer, Rubens, etc., the Old Masters come thick and fast at this vast repository of European art. Get here early and target the biggies, such as Jan Vermeer's emotive ***The Glass of Wine*** (1658) or Jan van Eyck's ***Madonna in a Church*** (1437–39). At the gallery's core is an octagonal room dedicated to the handsome brushwork of Dutch Golden Age master Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–69). Among his 16 paintings is ***Susanna and the Elders*** (1647), which took 10 years to complete. ***1 hr. Matthäikirchplatz 4/6. 030-266-29-51. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ students, free for children under 16. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.***

2 ★★ kids Potsdamer Platz. Potsdamer Platz is Berlin's miniature Manhattan, the city's commercial hub with a round-the-clock buzz and futuristic skyscrapers. Pick your way through this crystal maze to spy the redbrick Kollhoff (boasting Europe's fastest elevator), the crescent-shaped Deutsche Bank building, and the spinning Mercedes-Benz sign. The biggest head-turner, though, is the 103m Sony Center (p 89), sheltering restaurants and a cinema beneath a tent-like glass roof. For a taste of how the square looked when divided (before 1989), check out the graffitied fragments of the Berlin Wall in front of the S-Bahn station. ***1 hr. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.***

The high-rises looming above Potsdamer Platz reflect 21st-century Berlin.

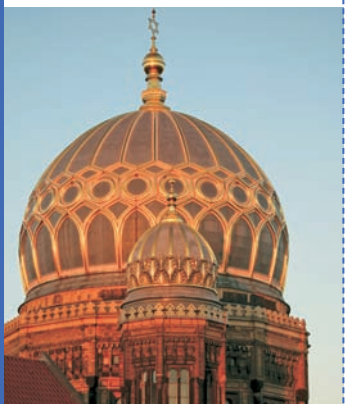
3 ★★ Hackesche Höfe. A snippet of turn-of-the-century Berlin, these interlinked courtyards are ideal for strolling, boutique shopping, and people-watching. Art Nouveau-style Hof I is the most attractive, with ornamental mosaic walls and curvaceous windows. Roam the other courtyards to bag unique gifts from handmade soaps to original 1960s sunglasses. By night, the illuminated courtyards come alive in effervescent bars and theaters such as Chamäleon cabaret (p 135). ***1 hr. Hackesche Höfe. www.hackesche-hoefe.com. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.***

4 ★ **Anatre.** Grab an espresso and snack at this café, with a patio facing the prettiest courtyard in Hackesche Höfe. The ciabatta sandwiches and ***antipasti*** are delicious. *Hof I.* ☎ *030-28-38-99-15. $.*

5 ★★★ **Neue Synagoge.** This neo-Byzantine synagoge, originally built in 1866, was inspired by Andalusia's Alhambra Palace. Bombed in World War II, it emerged like a phoenix from the ashes in 1995. Its trio of bulbous domes feature intricate gold ribbing and appear to glow in the dusk light. The Star of David is a reminder that the now hip Scheunenviertel neighborhood was traditionally Berlin's Jewish quarter. Today it's on the up, with a growing crop of kooky bars and boutiques. 🕘 *20 min. Oranienburger Strasse 28–30.* ☎ *030-88-02-84-51. S-Bahn: Oranienburger Strasse.*

6 ★★ **Hamburger Bahnhof.** With its twin clock towers, graceful arches, and echoing halls, there's no hiding the fact that this gallery was once a train station. Hamburger Bahnhof now makes tracks with its peerless collection of contemporary art, including works by 20th-century Pop Art stars Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein. Keep an eye out for Warhol's silk-screen of smirking *Chairman Mao* (1975), Joseph Beuys' classic *Tram Stop* (1976), and Damien Hirst's pharmaceutical frenzy *The Void* (2,000), exhibiting hundreds of pills in kaleidoscopic shades of color. 🕘 *1 hr. Invalidenstrasse 50–51.* ☎ *030-39-78-34-11. www.hamburgerbahnhof.de. Admission 5€ adults, free for children under 16. Tues–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat 11am–8pm, Sun 11am–6pm. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.*

See the curvaceous domes of the Neue Synagoge blush at dusk.



Henry Moore's Big Butterfly sculpture in front of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

7 ★★ **Haus der Kulturen der Welt.** Whether or not you agree with locals that this contemporary arts center resembles a ***schwangere Auster*** (pregnant oyster), there's certainly something shell-like about it. It's best surveyed from the front, where the Spiegelteich pond mirrors the edifice; the rippled reflection gives you the sense of being underwater. Have your camera handy for the shimmering centerpiece—Brit Henry Moore's bronze sculpture, *Big Butterfly* (1984). 🕘 *30 min. John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.*

8 ★★ kids **Carillon.** The oyster's lesser-known neighbor is this 42m carillon (free-standing bell tower) of smooth black granite, whose soaring lines force your gaze up. Containing 68 bells, the glockenspiel (a chiming

On the Buses

Save your spending money with a self-guided city tour on public double-decker bus route 100, running every seven minutes between Zoologische Garten and Alexanderplatz. For the price of a single ticket (2.10€ adults, 1.40€ children under 13), you can take in many of Berlin's most iconic sights including Tiergarten's Siegessäule (p 13), Bundespräsidialamt (p 38), and Schloss Bellevue (p 13). Keep an eye out for landmarks such as the Reichstag (p 7), Brandenburg Gate (p 7), and Fernsehturm (p 49) as you trundle through Mitte district. Grab a seat at the front of the upper deck for the best views. For more ticket information on Berlin's buses, see p 168.

percussion instrument) is the world's fourth largest. Continue your stroll through the adjacent sculpture garden. This serene park is a great approach to the Reichstag (p 7, bullet 1), as the open surroundings amplify its dimensions. 🕘 *15 min. Concerts May–Sep Sun 3pm.* ☎ *030-851-28-28. Free public access. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.*

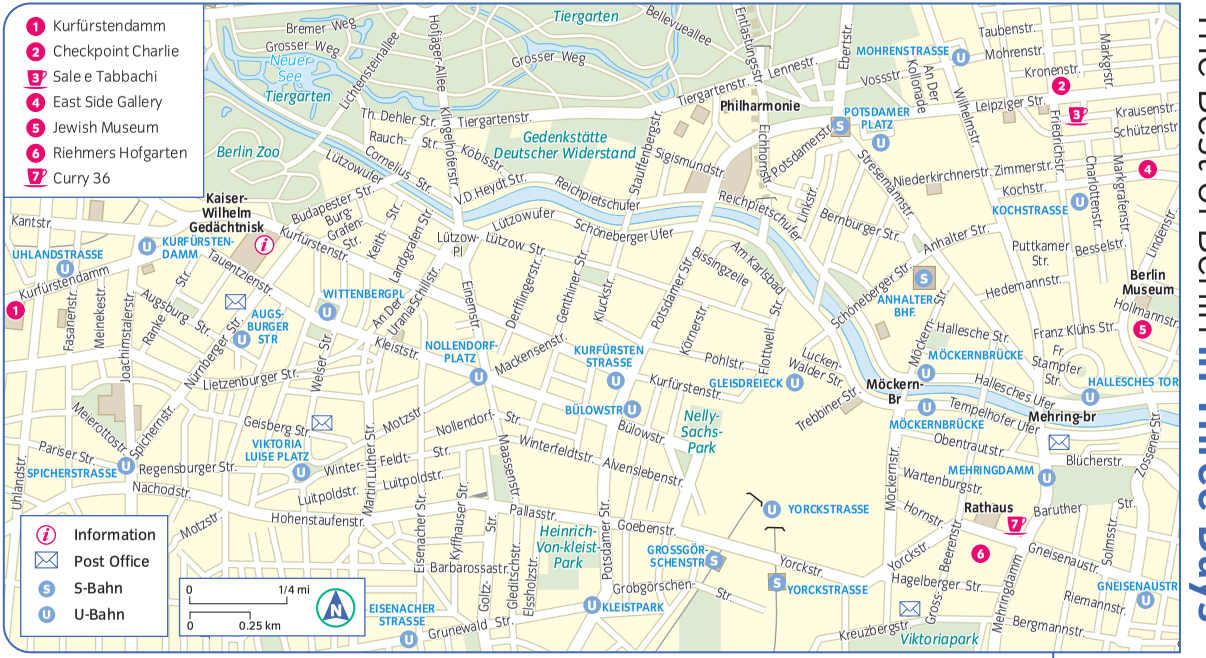
Victoria stands proud atop Siegessäule - Berliners call her Golden Else.

9 ★★ **Zollpackhof.** Cold beer, a chestnut-shaded garden, and some of the finest views of Haus der Kulturen der Welt this side of the Spree keep locals and tourists coming back to this beer garden. *Elizabeth-Abegg-Strasse 1.* ☎ *030-33-09-97-20. $.*

10 ★★★ kids **Siegessäule.** The Siegessäule (Victory Column) pops up like a gigantic telescope, and hits you in a wow-I'm-in-Berlin kind of way. Its most eye-catching feature is the angelic Victoria, the same figure crowning the Brandenburg Gate (p 7), whose golden wings frame the sky and give the impression that she's about to take flight. Berliners nickname her Golden Else because she shines gold in the sunlight. The memorial commemorates victory in the 1864 Prussian–Danish war, with reliefs depicting scenes of this battle and two others: the 19th-century Franco-Prussian and Austro-Prussian wars. Puff up 285 steps to the platform for far-reaching views over Berlin. 🕘 *30 min. Grosser Stern 1.* ☎ *030-391-29-61. Admission 2.20€ adults, 1.50€ students, free for children under 6. Apr–Oct Mon–Fri 9:30am–6:30pm, Sat–Sun 9:30am–7pm; Nov–Mar Mon–Fri 10am-5pm. S-Bahn: Bellevue.*

11 ★★ kids **Schloss Bellevue.** Try a gentle amble to Schloss Bellevue. Manicured lawns guide the eye to this Prussian palace built in 1786, where the German and EU flags flutter. 🕘 *30 min. Spreeweg. S-Bahn: Bellevue.*

The Best of Berlin **in Three Days**



For a more intimate look at the spirit underpinning Berlin, go west to Kurfürstendamm. Shop the boutiques before experiencing the edgy east: Checkpoint Charlie and the East Side Gallery deserve your undivided attention, as does the emotive Jewish Museum. Finish with spicy *Currywurst* (curried sausage) in Kreuzberg. **START: U-Bahn Kurfürstendamm.**

1 ★★ Kurfürstendamm. Dubbed Ku'damm for short, Berlin's famous shopping street tests your retail stamina with 3½ km of chic boutiques, high-street stores, and cafés. This boulevard has a split personality: head west towards well-heeled Charlottenburg for designer labels from Gucci to Louis Vuitton; east to Tauentzienstrasse for affordable fashion and department stores including **KaDeWe** (don't miss the 6th-floor food court; p 89). For quirkier designs, root around side streets such as Fasanenstrasse and Uhlandstrasse. Get here early, as crowds swell by midday. *1½ hr. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.*

2 ★★★ Checkpoint Charlie. From 1961 until the fall of the Wall in 1989, Checkpoint Charlie was the Friedrichstrasse border crossing between East and West Berlin.

The soldier's post and replica hut at Checkpoint Charlie.

Symbol of a Cold War city divided, a replica hut and a soldier's post now mark the former U.S. army checkpoint. There's a sense of history at the open-air exhibition, which gives insightful background on the Wall and its impact. The adjacent Mauermuseum (p 52) tells Berliners' personal stories of separation and reunification. *1 hr. Friedrichstrasse 43–45. U-Bahn: Kochstrasse.*

3 ★ Sale e Tabacchi. Fling open the door of this trattoria and you're met with the lively din of Italian chatter. Dark wood paneling and old-fashioned service create a charming setting for a cappuccino or light lunch. *Kochstrasse 18. 030-252-11-55. $$.*

4 ★★★ East Side Gallery. The thing that amazes me when I see the Berlin Wall is that it's not that high: It didn't have to be. To call it a wall is a misnomer: In fact it comprised two walls and a corridor, or "death strip", where GDR (East German) guards patrolled. Where gray concrete and razor wire once bred fear, people now admire the world's largest open-air gallery. Stretching 1,300m shadowing the Spree, its colorful artworks range from politically provocative to fun; look for the crashed Communist-era Trabant car. Most visitors just take a few snapshots, but to appreciate the awful wonder of the Wall, I recommend you walk every last inch. *1 hr. www.eastsidegallery.com. Admission free. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof.*

Chip off the Old Bloc

From 1961 to 1989, the 155km Berlin Wall was a potent symbol of the Cold War, an impenetrable physical and psychological barrier between East and West Germany. On November 9, 1989, the Communist East German government announced the opening of the border to West Berlin. Thousands of jubilant Berliners flocked to the Wall and began chipping away at it with hammers, eager to keep a chunk of history; they were nicknamed *Mauerspechte* (wall woodpeckers). Today, wherever you go in Berlin you encounter souvenir shops where you can purchase your own bit of Wall to treasure or send home on a postcard for as little as 2€. If you've been wondering where the Wall went when it crumbled, now you know. Genuine? Maybe. Lucrative? Most definitely.

5 ★★★ Jewish Museum. This zinc-clad building, brainchild of Polish-American architect Daniel Libeskind, resembles a bolt of lightning. Zigzagging tunnels bring you to the Axis of Holocaust, where the spotlight is on individuals; particularly moving is the toy monkey of a boy whose parents were murdered at Auschwitz. It's hard, too, not to feel a lump in your throat when the iron door closes, trapping you inside the Holocaust Tower. Other poignant creations include Menashe Kadishman's ***Shalechet*** (Fallen Leaves), a triangular void filled with 10,000 screaming iron faces that clank as you cross them. Upstairs traces German-Jewish life from the Middle Ages to the present. *1½ hr. Lindenstrasse 9–14. 030-259-93-300. www.juedisches-museum-berlin.de. Admission 5€ adults, 2.50€ students, free for children under 6. Mon 10am–10pm, Tues–Sun 10am–8pm. U-Bahn: Hallesches Tor.*

Menashe Kadishman's Shalechet (Fallen Leaves) at the Jewish Museum.

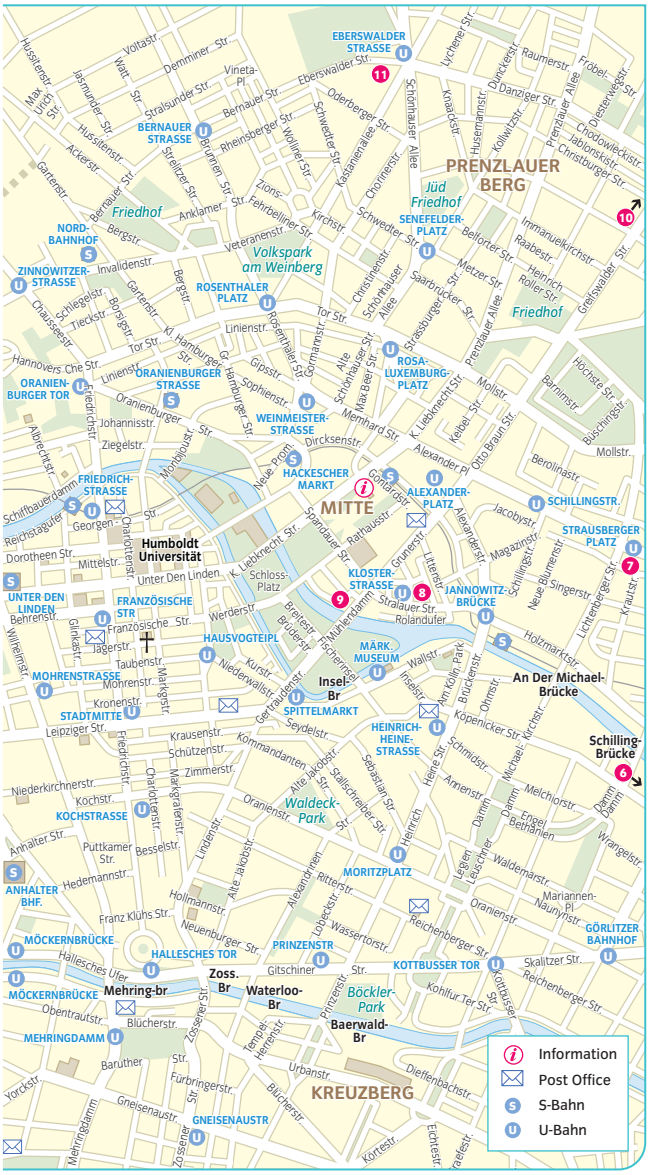
6 ★★ Riehmers Hofgarten. Pass through a wrought-iron gate into this Art Nouveau courtyard, an oasis of calm in the heart of Kreuzberg. I love to amble through the chestnut-shaded square to gaze upon townhouses draped in vines, so perfect they resemble overgrown dolls houses. It's particularly magical as night falls, when lanterns caress the cobblestoned courtyard with subtle light. *30 min. Yorkstrasse, Hagelberger, and Grossbeerenstrasse. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.*

7 kids ★★★ Curry 36. The humble ***Currywurst*** (curried sausage) is king at this sidewalk joint marked with a red sign. Chow down on your classic Berlin dish with fries or cabbage salad. Be prepared to queue with hungry locals. *Mehringdamm 36. No phone. $.*

2 The Best **Special-Interest Tours**

Something **Brewing**

1. Café am Neuen See
2. Schleusenkrug
3. Brewbaker
4. Zollpackhof
5. Mommseneck
6. Heinz Minki
7. Bier-Spezialitäten-Laden
8. Zur Letzten Instanz
9. Georg Bräu
10. Berliner-Kindl-Schultheiss-Brewery
11. Prater


PRENZLAUER BERG
MITTE
KREUZBERG
Jüd Friedhof
Volkspark am Weinberg
Friedhof
Waldeck-Park
Böckler-Park
Humboldt Universität
Unter Den Linden
Schloss-Platz
Insel Br
An Der Michael-Brücke
Schilling-Brücke
Mehring-br
Waterloo-Br
Baerwald-Br
Zoss. Br
EBERSWALDER STRASSE
BERNAUER STRASSE
NORD-BAHNHOF
ZINNOWITZER-STRASSE
ROSENTHALER PLATZ
ORANIENBURGER STRASSE
ORANIENBURGER TOR
FRIEDRICH-STRASSE
WEINMEISTER-STRASSE
HACKESCHER MARKT
ALEXANDER-PLATZ
SCHILLINGSTR.
STRAUSBERGER PLATZ
ROSA-LUXEMBURG-PLATZ
SENEFELDER-PLATZ
KLOSTER-STRASSE
JANNOWITZ-BRÜCKE
UNTER DEN LINDEN
FRANZÖSISCHE STR
HAUSVOGTEIPL
MÄRK. MUSEUM
SPITTELMARKT
HEINRICH-HEINE-STRASSE
MOHRENSTRASSE
STADTMITTE
KOCHSTRASSE
ANHALTER BHF.
MÖCKERNBRÜCKE
HALLESCHES TOR
MEHRINGDAMM
GNEISENAUSTR
PRINZENSTR
MORITZPLATZ
KOTTBUSSER TOR
GÖRLITZER BAHNHOF
Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn

Berlin is no exception in this beer-crazy country, where a hunger for the humble sausage is matched only by a thirst for amber nectar. An outing to the capital's lively beer gardens and brew-pubs is a great way to slip under Berlin's skin and meet the locals. So, brace yourself for an intoxicating tour of the top drinking holes: from quaffing under the fruit trees in Kreuzberg to slurping homebrew by the meter in the Nikolaiviertel. **START: S-Bahn to Tiergarten.**

1 ★★ kids Café am Neuen See. Quench your thirst on warm weekends at Berlin's biggest beer garden, seating 1,000. A narrow woodland trail weaves through Tiergarten to emerge at Neuen See. Join beer-guzzling locals on the benches beside this tranquil lake for cool lagers and giant pretzels. A sandpit, table tennis, and rowing boats (5€ for 30 minutes) will keep kids amused, for a while anyway. It's even a bit romantic at night, when candles illuminate the lush green surrounds. ***Lichtensteinallee 2. ☎ 030-254-49-30. May–mid-Oct daily 10am–11pm; mid-Oct–Apr Sat–Sun 10am–11pm. S-Bahn: Tiergarten.***

2 Schleusenkrug. Enjoy a leisurely saunter along the Landwehrkanal (p 97, bullet 1) to this canal-front beer garden. The name is a fusion of ***Schleuse*** (lock) and ***Krug*** (beer mug). With its willows and creeping roses, the garden provides respite from the city's bustle and is packed to the gunnels on balmy evenings. From 4pm, the grill rustles up a selection of tasty snacks—try the spicy Merguez sausages. ***Müller-Breslau-Strasse,***

Under the railway arches, Brewbaker excels in unusual beers and breads.

Hire a boat at Café am Neuen See for a different perspective of Tiergarten.

Berliner Weisse mit Schuss

Love it or hate it, when in Berlin you can't avoid the ubiquitous *Berliner Weisse mit Schuss*. This summertime tipple takes Berliner Weisse, a tangy top-fermented beer, and adds a shot of syrup. Choose between raspberry-flavored *Himbeere* or *Waldmeister* with a woodruff (a fragrant herb) kick. Served in a chunky goblet with a straw, the drink is a playful interpretation of one of Berlin's favorite brews, and extremely refreshing if you can cope with the traffic-light shades and strong whiff of syrup. Impress the locals by simply ordering a Berliner Weisse *rot* (red) or *grün* (green).

Tiergarten. ☎ 030-313-99-09. Daily 10am–late. S-Bahn: Tiergarten.

Berliner Weisse with Himbeere (raspberry syrup) is refreshing in summer.

3 Brew-baker. Brew-baker excels in the two things closest to Berlin's heart: beer and bread. Don't be fooled by the unassuming exterior. Under the red-brick railway arches, the laid-back watering hole brews excellent Pilsner and cloudy wheat beers. Owner Michael Schwab experiments with new ales and, depending on the season, you can sample everything from malty dark beers (in winter) to unusual tipples such as pumpkin lager and potato stout (in autumn). Don't forget to try the homemade bread, too. *S-Bahn Bogen 415. ☎ 030-39-90-51-56. Mon–Fri 2pm–11pm, Sat–Sun 4pm–11pm. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten.*

4 ★ kids Zollpackhof. This effervescent beer garden makes a popular pitstop on the Sunday afternoon trail along tree-fringed Helgoländer Ufer (p 59, bullet 4). Trace the meandering River Spree to reach your target: a chestnut-shaded garden with fabulous views of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (p 12) and Bundeskanzleramt (p 38). It's a great spot to while away happy hours sipping Berliner Weisse and listening to boats chug past, or warming up beside an open fire on chilly days. Their Berliner Weisse mit Schuss (see below) is probably the best in town. *Elizabeth-Abegg-Strasse 1. ☎ 030-33-09-97-20. www.zollpackhof.de. Daily 10am–midnight. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.*

5 Mommseneck: Haus der 100 Biere. This gallery-style gastropub on Potsdamer Platz is ideal for fickle beer lovers, with 100 brews to pick from. The sleek, modern bar tempts true hopheads with brews from Europe, America, Asia, and Australasia, including 12 on tap. The mind-boggling array includes Berliner Kindl, Jamaican Red Stripe, Guinness, and Japanese Kirin. These are accompanied by old-fashioned Berlin dishes such as pea soup with ***Bockwurst*** (veal sausage) and pork knuckles with sauerkraut. The

terrace is a magnet to urbanites, who come here to chill after work in summer. ***Alte Potsdamer Strasse. ☎ 030-25-29-66-35. Daily 11am–midnight. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.***

6 ★ Heinz Minki. Over the Oberbaumbrücke, and down Schlesische Strasse, stands Heinz Minki (p 130), opening onto a garden enveloped in vines and strung with lanterns. This relaxed Kreuzberg hangout is Berlin's last remaining tollgate, dating from 1859. Today its enchanting garden, shaded by 100-year-old apple and pear trees, exudes a come-as-you-are feel. Grab a chair to savor crisp pizza with grapefruit-infused wheat beer. During the warmer months, locals cruise over here after a dip in Badeschiff just around the corner. Year-round, the 1970s-style bar attracts a lively crowd with regular events from DJs to table football tournaments. ***Vor dem Schlesischen Tor 3. ☎ 030-69-53-37-66. www.heinzminki.de. Mon–Sat 2pm–late, Sun 12pm–late. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor.***

Rocket pizza at Heinz Minki.

7 Bier-Spezialitäten-Laden. This hole-in-the wall store in Friedrichshain stocks 500 beers from all over the world, including German ***Rauchbier*** (smoked beer) and Belgian ***Kriekbier*** (cherry beer). It's also where Berliners come for take-away local brews such as top-fermented Berliner Weisse. You can even buy the glasses to match. ***Karl-Marx-Allee 56. ☎ 030-249-21-46. Mon–Fri 10am–7:30pm, Sat 10am—2:30pm. U-Bahn: Strausberger Platz.***

8 ★★ kids Zur Letzten Instanz. Just a 10-minute stroll from Alexanderplatz, this creaking haunt is hidden down a cobbled backstreet near the original city walls (p 65, bullet 12). Berlin's oldest inn, dating back to 1621, Zur Letzten Instanz (To the Last Instance) still solemnly swears to provide punters with a cozy atmosphere, hearty local fare, and fine brews in wood-paneled surrounds. Napoleon Bonaparte once supped beside the tiled stove, now graced with a bust of the French emperor. Squeeze inside to hear the chef pounding schnitzel and soak up the atmosphere of old Berlin. Sharp-witted waiters serve classics from pickled pork knuckles to meatballs, but if you're feeling adventurous I recommend the ***Anwalts Frühstück*** (Lawyer's Breakfast)—a pair of blood sausages with creamed sauerkraut and parsley. ***Waisenstrasse 14–16. ☎ 030-242-55-28. Mon–Sat 12pm–1am. U-Bahn: Alexandarplatz.***

9 Georgbräu. After boutique shopping in the Nikolaiviertel (p 64), put your feet up at this congenial microbrewery. The shady terrace by the Spree overlooks August Kiss'

Pull up a chair for beer and hearty German fare at Zur Letzten Instanz, Berlin's oldest inn.

bronze of St George slaying the dragon (1856). Inside shining copper vats and dark wood create a warm ambiance for serious beer drinking. If you're thirsty, order a pitcher of the home-brewed Georg Pils or go the whole hog with a meter of beer (roughly 12 glasses). Pork is big on the menu with favorites such as salted ribs, knuckles, and sausage salad. ***Spreeufer 4. ☎ 030-242-58-70. www.georgbraeu.de. Mon–Sat 2pm–late, Sun 12pm–late. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz***

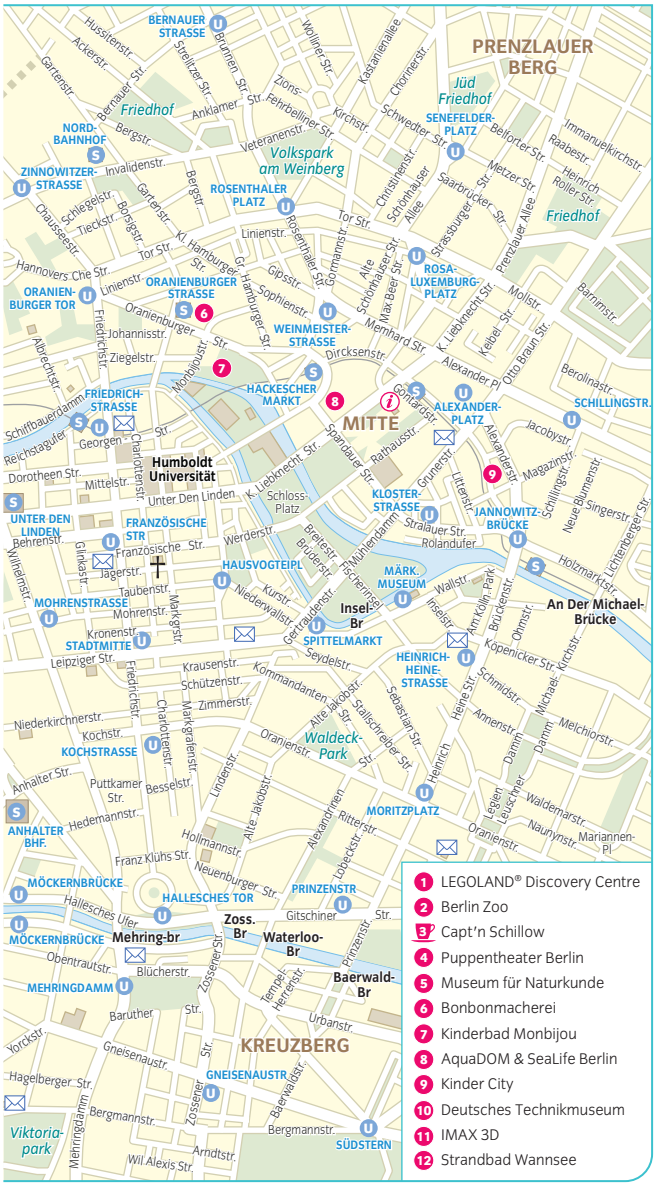
10 ★ Berliner-Kindl-Schultheiss-Brewery. Little has changed at Berlin's most famous brewery since Jobst Schultheiss founded it in 1853. It still brews classic tipples such as Berliner Pilsner, Kindl, and lightly spicy Schultheiss. Join a 1½ hour tour (available in English) to taste the beer and take a behind-the-scenes look at the different brewing processes. ***Indira-Gandhi-Strasse 66–69. ☎ 030-960-90. 4€ tour, 7€ with tasting. Tours Mon–Thurs 10am, 12pm, 2pm, and 5:30pm. S-Bahn: Landsberger Allee.***

11 ★★ kids Prater. Bang in the heart of up-and-coming Prenzlauer Berg, the lively Prater beer garden has a brewing tradition stretching back to 1837. There's nothing better on a hot day than pulling up a bench under the chestnut trees to slurp draught Prater Pils (light lager) or Schwarzbier (dark beer). People from all walks of life gather to drink beer, chomp on Bavarian-style white sausages with sweet mustard, and people-watch. The vibe is relaxed and there's even a playground for kids to let off steam. ***Kastanienallee 7–9. ☎ 030-448-56-88. www.prater garten.de. Apr–Sep Mon–Sat 6pm—late, Sun 12pm–late. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse.***

Roll out the Barrel

If your appetite has been whetted, time your visit for the free **Berlin Beer Festival** (☎ 030-65-76-35-60; www.bierfestival-berlin.de). On the first weekend in August, monumental Karl-Marx-Allee morphs into the world's largest beer garden, tempting ale lovers with 1,750 different brews from 80 countries. Drink in the party atmosphere on the 2.2km route with steins a-swinging and folk music on 18 stages from Frankfurter Tor to Strausberger Platz. Eat your heart out Oktoberfest.

Kinder Surprise



1. LEGOLAND® Discovery Centre
2. Berlin Zoo
3. Capt'n Schillow
4. Puppentheater Berlin
5. Museum für Naturkunde
6. Bonbonmacherei
7. Kinderbad Monbijou
8. AquaDOM & SeaLife Berlin
9. Kinder City
10. Deutsches Technikmuseum
11. IMAX 3D
12. Strandbad Wannsee

Berlin is tailor-made for tots, with cuddly Knut at the zoo, dancing marionettes, picnics in Tiergarten, or the short hop to Wannsee to build sandcastles on the beach. Whether they want to spot the world's biggest Brachiosaurus or try homemade bonbons, there are indoor attractions for when the weather turns dreary. Even simple things will spark little imaginations, from munching sausages at a roadside stall to riding high in a double-decker bus. **START: U-Bahn to Potsdamer Platz.**

1 ★ kids LEGOLAND® Discovery Center. A 7m giraffe, built from 375,000 Lego bricks, greets you at this interactive attraction inside the Sony Center. Young children will have a whale of a time getting creative building skyscrapers or racing cars. Big draws include the Hall of Fame, where Lego celebrities such as Marilyn Monroe make an appearance, and Miniland Berlin where kids can pick out models of the city's famous landmarks such as the 3,000-brick Berliner Dom. *1 hr. Sony Center. 030-30-10-40-0. www.legolanddiscoverycentre.com Admission 12.50€ adults, 9€ children under 16. Daily 10am–5pm. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

2 ★★★ kids Berlin Zoo. Berlin Zoo's spacious, animal-friendly enclosures are exemplary. Top of the must-do list is, of course, visiting Knut—the cute polar bear who won the world's affection when born in 2006. He has his very own pad, and there's a special viewpoint where children under 12 can get close to the cub. Other critters the kids will love include zebras, elephants,

A pink flamingo enjoys the shade at Berlin Zoo.

The mirror image of the giraffe outside LEGOLAND® Discovery Center.

alpacas, hippos, and the resident giant panda. Make the most of your trip to the zoo by scheduling one of these feeding times: polar bears and seals (10:30am); giant panda (11am); monkeys (12pm); penguins (1:45pm). 🕘 *1½ hr. Hardenbergplatz 8.* ☎ *030-25-40-10. www.zoo-berlin.de. Admission 12€ adults, 9€ students, 6€ children under 16. Mid-Mar–mid-Oct daily 9:30am–6:30pm; mid-Oct–mid-Mar 9am–5pm. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten.*

3 **Capt'n Schillow.** Treat your kids to a fun lunch on this houseboat moored on the Landwehrkanal. When the sun's out, sit on deck to study the fishy menu of dishes such as ***Labskaus*** (fish stew) and pike-perch with horseradish. The houseboat is easy to miss: from Charlottenburger Tor follow a narrow tree-fringed path to Lichtensteinbrücke. ***Strasse des 17 Juni.*** ☎ ***030-31-50-50-15. $–$$.***

4 kids **Puppentheater Berlin.** The traditional puppets and marionettes that play to crowds at this small theater near Schloss Charlottenburg captivate kids. Performances ranging from Noah's Ark to classic German fairytales such as ***Hansel and Gretel***, are bound to put a smile on their faces. The talented puppeteers often encourage children to take part in hands-on activities after the show. Full program details are published on the website. 🕘 *1 hr. Gierkeplatz 2.* ☎ *030-342-19-50. www.puppentheater-berlin.de. Admission 5€. S-Bahn: Westend.*

5 ★★ kids **Museum für Naturkunde.** What's 150 million years old, as tall as a four-storey building, and as heavy as 10 elephants? Answer: the world's largest Brachiosaurus skeleton at Berlin's Natural History Museum. It's amazing to see kids wide-eyed as they catch their first glimpse of the prehistoric giant (13m tall and 15.5m long) in the central hall. Although dino may be the star of the show, the rest of the collection is also impressive, spanning everything from fossilized sea urchins to minerals and meteorites. Intriguing creatures on display include the pudú (the world's smallest deer), the musk ox, and elusive kirk dik-dik. Keep an eye out for the jaws of a great white shark near the exit. 🕘 *1 hr. Invalidenstrasse 43.* ☎ *030-20-93-85-91. www.naturkunde museum-berlin.de. Admission 5€ adults, 3€ children under 16. Tues–Fri 9:30am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.*

6 ★ kids **Bonbonmacherei.** Entering this old-fashioned sweet shop in the Heckmann Höfe is like stepping onto the film set for ***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory***. There's no Willy Wonka, but there is a candy man and kids love to watch him make bonbons by hand in the show kitchen. Whiffs of licorice and peppermint fill the air; scoop yourselves

Marionettes perform at Puppentheater Berlin.

Playtime in Berlin

With the gigantic Tiergarten (p 96) at its heart, Berlin is one of Europe's greenest cities. It's also dotted with adventure playgrounds where tots can burn off excess energy. One of the most central is the play area on John-Foster-Dulles-Allee near the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, with tire swings, ropes, and a sandpit. Edging farther east you reach the Volkspark in Friedrichshain with equipment including a pirate ship, a lighthouse, water pumps, and wobbly bridges. Another top choice is Lausitzer Platz close to Görlitzer Bahnhof, where children can have fun squirting water and digging in the sand. See map, p 96.

hardboiled sweets from zesty lime drops and raspberry bonbons to leaf-shaped ***Maiblätter*** (May leaves), made with woodruff. Spin the signs to find their names in English and German. 🕘 ***15 min. Heckmann Höfe. ☎ 030-44-05-52-43. www.bonbonmacherei.de. Wed–Sat 12:05pm–8pm, closed Sun–Tues. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse.***

Sample hard-boiled sweets made the old-fashioned way at Bonbonmacherei.

7 kids **Kinderbad Monbijou.** On balmy summer days, take your children to this family-friendly lido. While grownups relax on the lawns, kids can splash in the shallow pools or test out the whizzy slides. Kinderbad Monbijou is among the most central of Berlin's public outdoor pools, but for a complete list see www.berlinerbaederbetriebe.de. ***Oranienburger Strasse 78. ☎ 030-282-86-52. Admission 4€ adults, 2.50€ concessions, 7€ family. Mid-May–Jun Mon–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat–Sun 10am–7pm; Jul–Aug daily 10am–7pm. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse.***

8 kids **AquaDom & Sea Life Berlin.** Kids can find answers to the mystery of the ocean and trace Berlin's waterways from the River Spree to Wannsee at this marine center. Rays and hound sharks glide past in the tanks, and tots can handle starfish in the touch pools. A highlight is the Giant Pacific Octopus, the master of camouflage with a two-meter arm span. An elevator whisks you through the 25m AquaDom, the world's largest free-standing aquarium. Get here early to beat the queues. 🕘 ***1 hr. Spandauer Strasse 3. ☎ 030-992-800. www.sealifeeurope.com. Admission***

15.50€ adults, 11.50€ children under 14. Daily 10am–7pm. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.

9 ★ kids **Kinder City.** This interactive "kids' city" in Alexa shopping center is a winner with under-12s. Here they can race behind the wheel of a mini Skoda at the driving school, play virtual football, or even produce their own TV show. There's a separate area for babies with a starry sky and croaking frogs. Fabrikatelier workshops offer 90-minute sessions (also in English), where children can bake their own bread or get chocolatey fingers making their own pralines to take home. *1 hr. Alexa, Alexanderplatz.* ☎ *030-30-87-43-90. www.kindercity.de. Admission 9.90€ adults, 7.40€ children under 12; workshops 8.60€; driving school 3€. Sun–Thurs 10am–6pm, Fri–Sat 10am–7pm. U-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

10 ★★ kids **Deutsches Technikmuseum.** Discover the technical wizardry of the past and future at this cavernous museum in Kreuzberg. The entrance is crowned by a DC-3 plane, nicknamed the "candy bomber" during the 1948–49 Berlin Airlift (p 54), because pilots threw gum and chocolate to children below. Kids love to peek into the compartments of early 20th-century steam trains, marvel at bizarre homemade flying contraptions, and wander the gardens to glimpse Dutch windmills. Little 'uns can pull and prod to their hearts' content at the adjacent Spectrum science center. Here hands-on exhibits are arranged thematically from optical illusions to flow dynamics. *1 hr. Trebbiner*

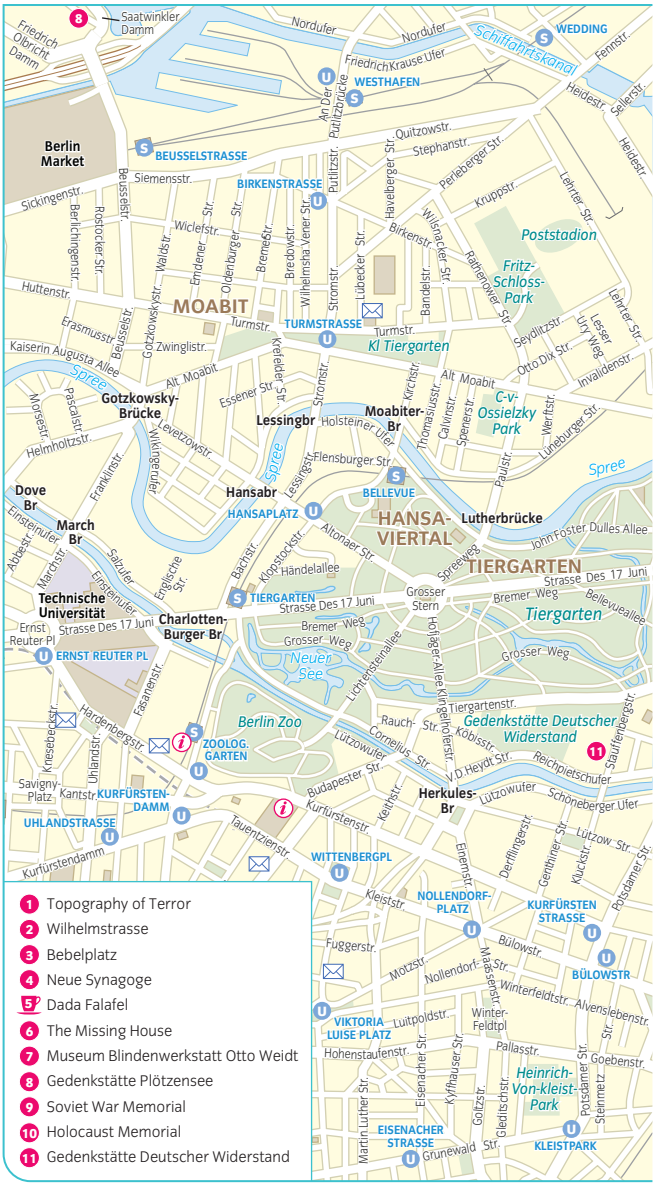
The Dutch windmill in the gardens at Deutsches Technikmuseum.

Strasse 9. ☎ *030-90-25-40. www.dtmb.de. Admission 4.50€ adults, 2.50€ concessions. Tues–Fri 9am–5:30pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. U-Bahn: Möckernbrücke.*

11 kids **IMAX 3D.** Entertain kids after dark with a trip to the world's biggest 3D cinema, forming part of the spacey Sony Center (p 89) on Potsdamer Platz. The mammoth cinema screens documentaries and animated films: from underwater voyages to dinosaur encounters. Slip on your special 3D glasses and the effects on the screen become incredibly lifelike. Book ahead. *Potsdamer Strasse 4.* ☎ *030-26-06-64-00. www.cinestar-imax.de. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

12 ★★ kids **Strandbad Wannsee.** On warm summer day, kids can dig in the sand, splash in the lake, and play freely at Wannsee. Pack a bucket and spade. *See p 100.*

Dark Past, **Bright Future**



1. Topography of Terror
2. Wilhelmstrasse
3. Bebelplatz
4. Neue Synagoge
5. Dada Falafel
6. The Missing House
7. Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt
8. Gedenkstätte Plötzensee
9. Soviet War Memorial
10. Holocaust Memorial
11. Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand

REINICKENDORFER-STRASSE
SCHWARTZKOPFF-STRASSE
NORD-BAHNHOF
ZINNOWITZER-STRASSE
BERNAUER STRASSE
Friedhof
Volkspark am Weinberg
ROSENTHALER PLATZ
LEHRTER STADBAHNHOF
Hôpital Charité
ORANIEN-BURGER TOR
ORANIENBURGER STRASSE
ROSA-LUXEMBURG-PLATZ
WEINMEISTER-STRASSE
HACKESCHER MARKT
ALEXANDERPL.
Moltkebr
FRIEDRICH-STRASSE
MITTE
Platz der Republik
Reichstag
Humboldt Universität
Brandenburg Gate
UNTER DEN LINDEN
FRANZÖSISCHE STR
KLOSTER-STRASSE
MÄRK. MUSEUM
HAUSVOGTEIPL
Insel-Br
SPITTELMARKT
MOHRENSTRASSE
STADTMITTE
POTSDAMER PLATZ
KOCHSTRASSE
Waldeck-Park
MORITZPLATZ
ANHALTER BHF.
MÖCKERNBRÜCKE
Möckern-Br
HALLESCHES TOR
Zoss. Br
Mehring-br
GLEISDREIECK
Nelly-Sachs-Park
YORCKSTRASSE
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To really understand Berlin, you need to revisit its past; to journey to the depths of a city once ruled by Hitler and ravaged by war. This tour visits Wilhelmstrasse where the Nazis rose to power in 1933, the Topography of Terror documenting their monstrous crimes, and memorials commemorating victims of the Holocaust. It looks at how Berlin has rebuilt itself to become the open-minded and innovative capital it is today—leaving behind its dark past and looking towards a bright future. **START: U-Bahn: Anhalter Bahnhof.**

1 ★★★ Topography of Terror. This open-air exhibition chronicling the darkest period of German history, National Socialism (1933–1945), chills me to the bone. The site is the crumbled remains of the Gestapo (Secret State Police) headquarters, where the Nazi regime planned and executed atrocities including the deportation and murder of millions of Jews, gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, political prisoners, and people with disabilities. With information panels, radio extracts, and TV clips, the walkable timeline traces everything from Adolf Hitler's jubilant rise to power on January 30, 1933, showing the jubilant crowds and parades on Wilhelmstrasse, to harrowing stories of torture and imprisonment in the Haus Gefängnis (house prison). Presenting the bare facts, this sensitive and informative portrayal provokes emotions of sympathy and disgust. *1 hr. Niederkirchnerstrasse 8. 030-25-48-67-03. www.topographie.de. Admission free. Oct–Apr 10am–6pm; May–Sep 10am–8pm. S-Bahn: Anhalter Bahnhof.*

The Topography of Terror documents the horrific crimes of the Holocaust.

2 Wilhelmstrasse. You're now at the epicenter of Nazi control during the Third Reich. Wilhelmstrasse is where Hitler stripped away the trees for his favorite architect Albert Speer to build a bombastic Reich Chancellery in 1938, complete with a balcony to greet the cheering masses. It was the political stage for parades and marches, and the location of ministries such as Joseph Goebbels' hateful Propaganda Ministry. Mercifully little remains today; the buildings that weren't bombed in World War II were later demolished. All, that is, with the glaring exception of the austere Reich Air Ministry on the corner of Leipziger Strasse, which now houses the German Finance Ministry. *30 min. Wilhelmstrasse. S-Bahn: Anhalter Bahnhof.*

3 ★ Bebelplatz. Be sure to glance down when crossing this cobbled square opposite the Humboldt University (p 41), because it's easy to miss its centerpiece: Micha Ullmann's 1995 ***versunkene Bibliothek*** (sunken library). Peer through the glass panel to stark white walls lined with rows of empty bookshelves. The emotive

A wrought iron sign marks Bebelplatz just off Unter den Linden.

memorial marks the spot where the first Nazi book burning took place on May 10, 1933 (see p 82). A total of 20,000 literary works, including titles by Heinrich Heine and Karl Marx, were set alight; these shelves have space for each and every one of them. 🕘 ***30 min. Bebelplatz. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse.***

4 ★★ **Neue Synagoge.** Gazing up to admire the pristine gold-ribbed cupola of this synagogue, it's hard to imagine that this synagogue was set ablaze by the Nazis on ***Kristallnacht*** 1938, and then heavily bombed in World War II. With its Moorish-inspired curves and terracotta hue, it has risen from the rubble of the Third Reich and been lovingly restored to its original state. Today, it's once again the focal point of the arty Scheunenviertel, Berlin's Jewish quarter. 🕘 ***30 min. See p 12.***

5 ★ **Dada Falafel.** This hole-in-the-wall joint serves hands-down the yummiest falafel in Berlin. Hear the oil sizzle and smell the fresh mint as yours is prepared in front of you. Other tasty snacks include hummus, couscous, and halloumi. For a taste of everything, order the Dada plate. ***Linienstrasse 132.*** ☎ ***030-27-59-69-27. $.***

6 **The Missing House.** As you walk along Grosse Hamburger Strasse, look for French artist and sculptor Christian Boltanski's ***Missing House*** (1990) opposite the Jewish School. In 1945, a bomb wrecked the neobaroque townhouse that once stood on this spot. Boltanski discovered that the residents were Jewish and dedicated an installation and memorial to their absence. It consists of a series of plaques marking roughly where the residents lived with their names and occupations. Born to a Jewish father, Boltanski spent his early childhood hiding from the Nazis; death and disappearance are recurring themes in his work. 🕘 ***10 min. Grosser Hamburger Strasse. S-Bahn: Oranienburger Strasse.***

7 ★ **Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt.** Tucked down an alley amid crumbling redbrick houses lies this museum dedicated to unsung hero Otto Weidt (1883–1947). In the early 1940s, Weidt set up a workshop to manufacture brooms and brushes, considered vital for military purposes. He employed 30 blind, deaf, and dumb Jews. From 1941 to 1943, he fought to protect his workers from

Head to Dada Falafel for Berlin's tastiest falafel.

Going Underground

What lies above ground in Berlin is only half the story. There's also a subterranean world of hidden air-raid shelters, tunnels, and arms factories. For a sense of what it was like to live here in World War II, join one of the guided **Berliner Unterwelten** (☎ 030-49-91-05-17; http://berlinerunterwelten.de) tours, to explore the labyrinth of bunkers that provided shelter when Allied bombers appeared overhead. Tours lasting roughly 90 minutes and costing 9€ (free for under-11s) depart from Brunnenstrasse at 12pm and 2pm from Monday to Thursday and 4pm Saturday to Monday.

deportation to concentration camps by hiding them behind the business, providing false papers and bribing Gestapo officials. 🕘 *45 min. Rosenthaler Strasse 39.* ☎ *030-28-59-94-07. Admission free. Daily 10am–8pm. U-Bahn: Weinmeisterstrasse.*

8 **Gedenkstätte Plötzensee.** In stark contrast to its idyllic lake setting of Plötzensee, this memorial is a chilling reminder of some of the crimes of National Socialism. From 1933 to 1945, the Nazis executed around 3,000 people here including Red Army soldiers and Czech resistance

A field of grey stelae at Peter Eisenman's labyrinthine Holocaust Memorial.

Berlin's Soviet War Memorial pays tribute to soldiers who died fighting the Nazis.

fighters. Today the atmosphere is one of peaceful remembrance; a simple plaque reads: "To the victims of the Hitler dictatorship of 1933–1945." 🕘 *45 min. Hüttigpfad.* ☎ *030-344-32-26. Admission free. Mar–Oct 9am–5pm; Nov–Feb 9am–4pm. Bus 105, 123: Gedenkstätte Plötzensee.*

9 ★ **Soviet War Memorial.** This memorial looms large on Strasse des 17 Juni, flanked as it is by the greenery of Tiergarten. It pays homage to the 20,000 soldiers of the Soviet Armed Forces who died fighting the Nazis in the bloody Battle of Berlin, in April and May

1945, when they seized control of the city. Hitler committed suicide in his bunker on April 30 before the battle ended; this memorial was partly built with marble from his Reich Chancellery. There's a sense of might about the stoa (a colonnade), whose central column is topped with a Red Army soldier immortalized in bronze. Note the T-34 tanks and gold plaques emblazoned with the Communist hammer-and-sickle motif, symbolizing the unity between the working class proletariat (hammer) and the peasant (sickle). 🕘 ***20 min. Strasse des 17 Juni. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

Keep an eye out for the Stolpersteine, commemorating victims of National Socialism.

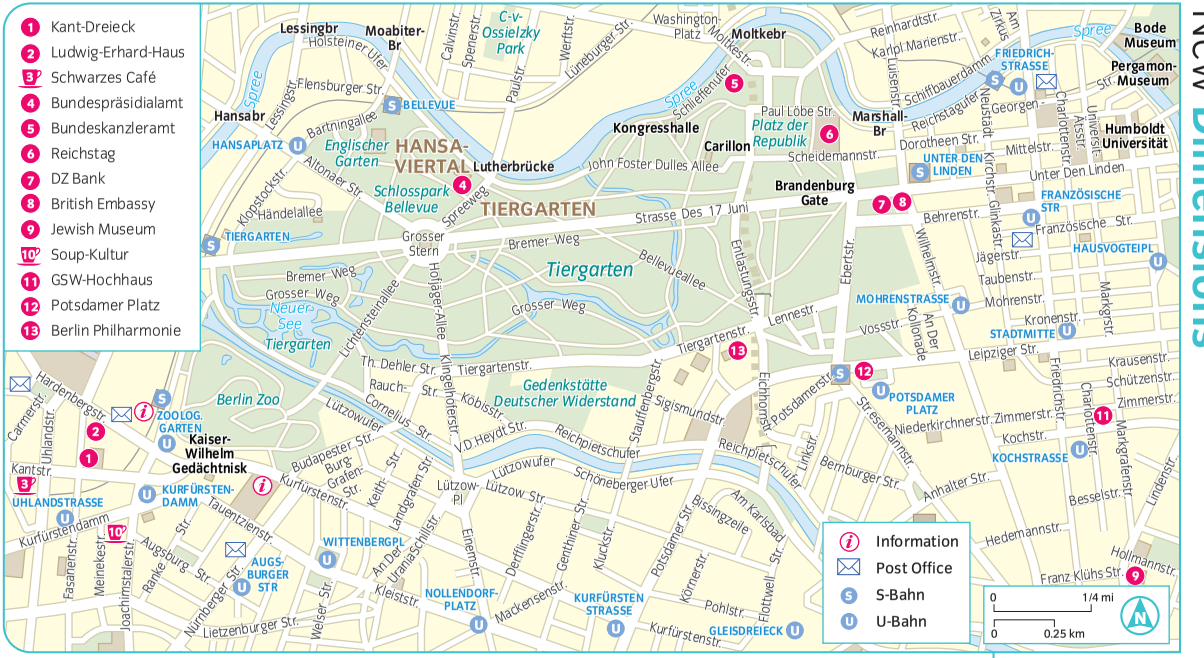
10 ★★★ Holocaust Memorial. American architect Peter Eisenman's powerful 2005 Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe is an undulating maze of 2,700 gray concrete stelae that can be entered at any point. The irregular slabs become higher as you approach the center, where they almost block out the sun. Below the wave-like monument lies the Ort der Information (Information Center), featuring a permanent exhibition dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. In the first room, the wall displays six photographs portraying people from different walks of life to symbolize six million murdered Jews. 🕘 ***30 min. See p 7.***

11 ★ Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand. Seek out this quiet courtyard to learn about the German citizens who risked (and often lost) their lives trying to overthrow the Nazi dictatorship. A quiet spot for contemplation, the memorial commemorates the brave individuals of the anti-Nazi resistance. Among them was Claus von Stauffenberg, who failed in his attempt to assassinate Hitler with a bomb on July 20, 1944. The exhibition offers an insight into the lives of the people who had the courage to stand up and speak out against what they knew to be wrong. 🕘 ***45 min. Stauffenbergstrasse 13–14.*** ☎ ***030-26-99-50-00. Admission free. Mon–Fri 9am–6pm, Thurs until 8pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm. U-Bahn: Kurfürstenstrasse.***

Stumbling Blocks

Wandering the city, you're almost certain to stumble across one or two *Stolpersteine.* That was the intention of Gunter Demnig, the Cologne artist behind the brass cobblestone plaques that commemorate the victims of National Socialism. Measuring 10cm by 10cm, the paving stones mark where victims once lived, and are engraved with their names and fates. It's a simple yet effective way of keeping their memories alive. Look out for some of Berlin's 1,400 "stumbling blocks" along Kantstrasse, Oranienstrasse, and Kurfürstendamm.

New Dimensions



Sir Norman Foster, Frank Gehry, Daniel Libeskind, and Sir Nicholas Grimshaw—the architectural geniuses of our age have worked wonders to rebuild postwar, post-Wall Berlin. The result? A cityscape that intrigues with its fusion of old and new; a metropolis where baroque palaces sidle up to 21st-century high-rises. This tour introduces Berlin's new kids on the block: from the Reichstag's glass cupola to the rainbow-hued GSW-Hochhaus. **START: S-Bahn to Zoologischer Garten.**

The steel arches of Ludwig-Erhard-Haus resemble the bony armour of an armadillo.

1 ★ **Kant-Dreieck.** Rising triumphant above a street bombed to smithereens in World War II, this 11-storey tower's most distinguishing feature is its sail-like roof. Like a shark's fin peeking above the 36m edifice, the rotating ***Dreieck*** (triangle) gives a quirky touch to the building, completed by award-winning German architect Josef Paul Kleihues in 1994. The tower comprises two cubes (a granite-like gneiss base and a steel top) whose criss-cross pattern resembles a giant game of noughts and crosses. ***Kantstrasse 155. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten.***

2 ★ **Ludwig-Erhard-Haus.** Next up is English modernist architect Sir Nicholas Grimshaw's outlandish Ludwig-Erhard-Haus (1997). Its ribbed shell resembles the bony armor of an armadillo. Built as an extension to Berlin's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, its organic form supposedly symbolizes the living "organism" of the stock market. Grimshaw later went on to design Cornwall's Eden Project and was elected President of the Royal Academy in 2004. ***Fasanenstrasse 83–84. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten.***

3 ★★ **Schwarzes Café.** Artists and intellectuals gather round the clock over mugs of coffee at this moody Kantstrasse institution. Brushed gold ceilings and candlelight evoke a bohemian feel. Try an all-day breakfast (French-style with hot chocolate), or indulge in yummy brownies and banana cake. ***Kantstrasse 148. ☎ 030-313-80-38. $.***

Open 24 hours a day - Schwarzes Café.

4 Bundespräsidialamt. With walls of highly polished dark granite, the striking elliptical Office of the Federal President stands in stark contrast to the baroque design of nearby Schloss Bellevue (p 13, bullet 11). The curvy 1998 building is the handiwork of German architects Martin Gruber and Helmut Kleine-Kraneburg. ***Spreeweg 1. S-Bahn: Bellevue.***

5 ★★ Bundeskanzleramt. Berliners call their Federal Chancellery the ***Elefanten-Waschanlage*** (elephant washing machine). It's a fitting description for this monolithic white cube with a hole at its center. Built in 2001 by Berlin architects Axel Schultes and Charlotte Frank, the postmodernist structure is a stunning new addition to Berlin's riverfront. Walk around to get a feel for its scale (12,000 square meters) and admire its pillars, ruler-straight lines, and arch of windows. ***Willy-Brandt-Strasse 1. S-Bahn: Hauptbahnhof.***

6 ★★★ Reichstag. Like a cherry on top of Germany's Parliament, Sir Norman Foster's 1999 cupola is an architectural tour de force. Viewed from below, it looks like an enormous glass ant hill, as visitors ascend its spiral ramps. The translucent membrane allows light to pour into the ***Plenarsaal*** (the assembly room, where politicians debate). Its crystalline form symbolizes values of clarity and transparency in politics. ***Platz der Republic. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. See p 7.***

7 DZ Bank. Pritzker prize-winning American architect Frank Gehry put his deconstructivist stamp on this sleek bank near the Brandenburg Gate in 2001. Its sand-hued Pietra di Vicenza stone façade features deep-set windows and lofty glass-and-chrome doors. The edifice may seem simple compared with Gehry's more playful confections, such as the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, but don't judge this bank by its cover: its skylit atrium towers over the architect's own wave-like titanium abstract sculpture. ***Pariser Platz 3. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

The striking angles of Berlin's Bundeskanzleramt.

8 British Embassy. From a distance, don't be fooled by what appears to be a dull sandstone building on the site of the old Palais Strousberg. You need to get up close to British architect Michael Wilford's postmodernist creation, unveiled in 2000 by HM Queen Elizabeth II, to discover an unconventional streak. The oblong gap at its base shelters two whimsical additions: a turquoise trapezoid and a bright purple tube, which apparently symbolize the dynamic and open character of modern Britain. Trust the Brits to have a playful sense of humor. ***Wilhelmstrasse 70–71. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

9 ★★★ Jewish Museum. Renowned Jewish-American architect Daniel Libeskind defines his zinc-clad, 2001 extension to the **Jewish Museum** as "an irrational and invisible matrix". Though the design seems abstract, the gashes in the façade are based on a pre-war map of Berlin on which the architect plotted the addresses of well-known Jewish residents. With its razor-sharp

angles and zigzagging form, "Between the Lines" is one of the city's outstanding examples of deconstructivist architecture. ***Lindenstrasse 9–14. U-Bahn: Hallesches Tor. See p 16.***

10 **Soup-Kultur.** This inviting café serves homemade soups from Berlin potato to French pumpkin and Irish stew. The freshly squeezed vegetable juices pack a vitamin punch. ***Markgrafenstrasse 22. ☎ 030-20-21-47-14. $.***

11 ★ **GSW-Hochhaus.** Designed by German architects Matthias Sauerbruch and Louisa Hutton in 1999, this overgrown Rubik's cube always puzzles and amazes me. Its concave façade is an abstract pattern of sun-blinds in bold oranges, reds, and pinks. Topped by a winged roof, the eco-friendly, 22-storey tower is the architectural equivalent of Tetris. The afternoon sun highlights its mosaic of many colors. ***Kochstrasse 22. U-Bahn: Kochstrasse.***

12 ★★ **Potsdamer Platz.** Progressive, bustling, and ever-evolving, when the Wall came down the glass-and-steel high-rises framing this square went up. Today Potsdamer Platz (p 11) is the epicenter of 21st-century Berlin. Its focal point is the oval-shaped Sony Center (p 89), built in 2000, whose tilting roof fastened to a steel ring is a kind of futuristic big top. It abuts the Daimler-Chrysler Quartier (p 61), designed by Renzo Piano, where architectural trailblazers include the gleaming Deutsche Bahn Tower by German-American architect Helmut Jahn and the 103m-tall redbrick Kollhof-Tower by Hans Kollhoff, both completed in 1999. Return after dark to see the skyscrapers illuminated. ***U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. See p 11.***

Admire the kaleidoscope shades of the GSW Hochhaus.

Daniel Libeskind's striking zinc-clad creation 'Between the Lines' houses Berlin's Jewish Museum.

13 ★ **Berlin Philharmonie.** Berlin's philharmonic hall takes its nickname, ***Zirkus Karajani*** (Karajan's Circus), from its tent-like shape and the late Austrian conductor Herbert von Karajan (1908–1989), who was appointed the Philharmonic's music director for life in 1955. The asymmetrical gold exterior is as architecturally innovative today as it was when German architect Hans Scharoun unveiled it in 1963. Get closer to notice the honeycombed texture and irregular angles. ***Matthäikirchstrasse 1. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.***

Roaring Twenties

Leggy showgirls and Lola Lola, Berlin in the 1920s was a hotbed of hedonism, art, and culture. This tour takes you back to the days when Albert Einstein taught at the Humboldt University, Marlene Dietrich smoldered on stage, and the Bauhaus pioneers proved to the world that creativity also comes in boxes. Feisty, liberal, and fizzing with innovation, Berlin then resembles Berlin today, with World War II and Communism put firmly behind it. Hooray for the cabaret! On with the show. **START: U-Bahn to Nollendorfplatz.**

1 ★★★ Bauhaus-Archiv. Form meets function at this temple to Bauhaus on the banks of the Spree. Soaring like a wave caught in mid-swell, the white edifice is based on the design principles of Berlin-born architect and Bauhaus founder Walter Gropius (1883–1969), who believed that "the ultimate aim of all creative activity is a building". From 1919 to 1933, Bauhaus design grabbed the world's attention with simplicity, clean lines, and the economic utilization of space. Masters such as Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944) and Swiss artist Paul Klee (1879–1940) created their own design vernacular. Step inside to view their floor plans of prefab housing estates, where an innovative palette of colors (from mulberry to mint) enlivened the lackluster surroundings. Alongside prints and models of Bauhaus buildings are aesthetically pleasing creations, from tubular steel chairs to ceramics. 🕘 *1 hr. Klingelhöferstrasse 14.* ☎ *030-25-40-02-0. www.bauhaus.de. Admission 7€ adults, 4€ students, free for children under 11. Wed–Mon 10am–5pm, Tues closed. U-Bahn: Nollendorfplatz.*

Function meets design at the iconic Bauhaus-Archiv.

Roam the second-hand book market in front of Berlin's Humboldt University.

2 Café Einstein. Whiffs of freshly roasted coffee float from this bustling 1920s-style café. Einstein captures the spirit of the era with dark wood paneling and walls smothered in monochrome film legends. The terrace is a great spot to watch the world go by over coffee or a plate of ***Tafelspitz*** (Austrian boiled beef). ***Unter den Linden 42.*** ☎ ***030-204-36-32. $$.***

3 ★ Humboldt University. As you saunter down Unter den Linden, note the Humboldt University where the world's brainiest physicist, Albert

Berlin's Blue Angel

She's the ultimate femme fatale; nobody embodies the *joie de vivre* of 1920s Berlin like Marlene Dietrich. Born in Berlin-Schöneberg in 1901, she soon exchanged violin playing for a life on the stage, joining Max Reinhardt's troupe as a chorus girl and actress in 1921. Her big break was in 1929 when she starred in *The Blue Angel* as pouting cabaret diva Lola Lola, and sung *Falling in Love Again.* The film's success paved the way to international stardom in 1930s Hollywood. Denouncing Nazism and branding Hitler "an idiot", she left Germany behind and entertained Allied troops on the front line in World War II with songs such as *Lili Marleen* (1939). As her close friend Ernest Hemingway put it: "If she had nothing more than her voice she could break your heart with it."

Einstein (1879–1955), hatched revolutionary theories and taught as a professor in the 1920s. Spy the plaque commemorating Max Planck (1858–1947), Nobel Prize winner and founder of quantum theory, on the left wing; he was among the first to recognize and promote the potential of Einstein's ideas. 🕘 ***30 min. Unter den Linden. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

4 Friedrichstrasse. Sequins, stars, feather boas—life was indeed a cabaret on Friedrichstrasse in the Roaring Twenties. For a taste of that glitz and glamor, walk the famous vaudeville mile. Although little remains of its showtime heyday, you can still pick out landmark venues such as the glittering Friedrichstadt-palast (p 135), where Marlene Dietrich made her revue stage debut and showgirls have been wowing audiences since the 1920s. 🕘 ***45 min. S-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse***.

Cigarettes and chocolate line the shelves at Süsskram Dealer.

5 ★★ kids Deutsche Kinemathek. Housed inside the Sony Center (p 89), this film museum whisks you back to the days of silent movies with 14 screens showing minute-long clips from 1920s classics such as ***Pandora's Box*** (1929), ***The Last Laugh*** (1924), and Fritz Lang's sci-fi thriller ***Metropolis*** (1927). The crowning glory is the permanent exhibition on German actress Marlene Dietrich (1901–1992), showcasing highlights from her estate. The all-white rooms are filled with treasures celebrating the life of a diva, from black-and-white portraits to film props, ball gowns, and letters (including one from Ernest Hemingway). The rest of the attic-like collection reveals heirlooms from the stage and behind the scenes. 🕘 ***1 hr. Potsdamer Strasse 2. www.filmmuseum-berlin.de. ☎ 030-300-903-0.***

Admission 7.50€ adults, 4.50€ students, free for children under 16. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs 10am–8pm, Mon closed. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.

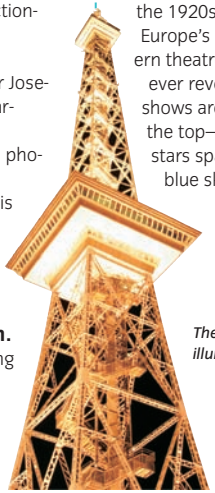
6 ★ **Süsskram-Dealer.** Catapulting visitors back to the early 20th century, this café-chocolatier in Friedenau has barely changed since it opened in 1906. In the 1920s, well-heeled Berliners came here to puff on fat cigars. With its high ceilings and polished mahogany, Süsskram is now an attraction in its own right. Owner Martin Hesse pours his passion into three specialties: coffee, candy, and cocoa. *Varziner Strasse 4. ☎ 030-85-07-77-97. $–$$.*

7 ★ **Marlene Dietrich's Grave.** Hidden in a quiet corner of the Friedenau district, the resting place of the silver screen diva is attractive yet surprisingly modest—rather like Marlene herself. Enter the cemetery and walk to the back to see a marble tombstone on the right that bears the gold inscription: ***Hier Steh ich an den Marken meine Tage*** (here I stand at the end of my days). Marlene, as Berliners affectionately call her, died in Paris in 1992, but chose to be buried close to her mother Josefine von Losch. Next to Marlene's grave is that of German-Australian fashion photographer Helmut Newton (1920–2004), famous for his racy Playboy pinups. *45 min. Stubenrauchstrasse 43–45. U-Bahn: Bundesplatz.*

8 ★★★ kids **Funkturm.** With its skeletal frame rising 150m above the city, Berlin's radio tower looks like a distant relative of the Eiffel Tower. Imagine how impressive the lattice steel structure must have been when Heinrich Straumer built it in 1926. Berliners refer to it as ***lange Lulatsch*** (lanky lad). I like to visit at dusk when the lights are switched on, the tower is bathed in gold, and the entire city twinkles from the platform. *45 min. Hammarskjöldplatz 1. ☎ 030-38-39-00. Admission 4€ adults, 2€ concessions. Mon 10am–8pm, Tues–Sun 10am–11pm. U-Bahn: Kaiserdamm.*

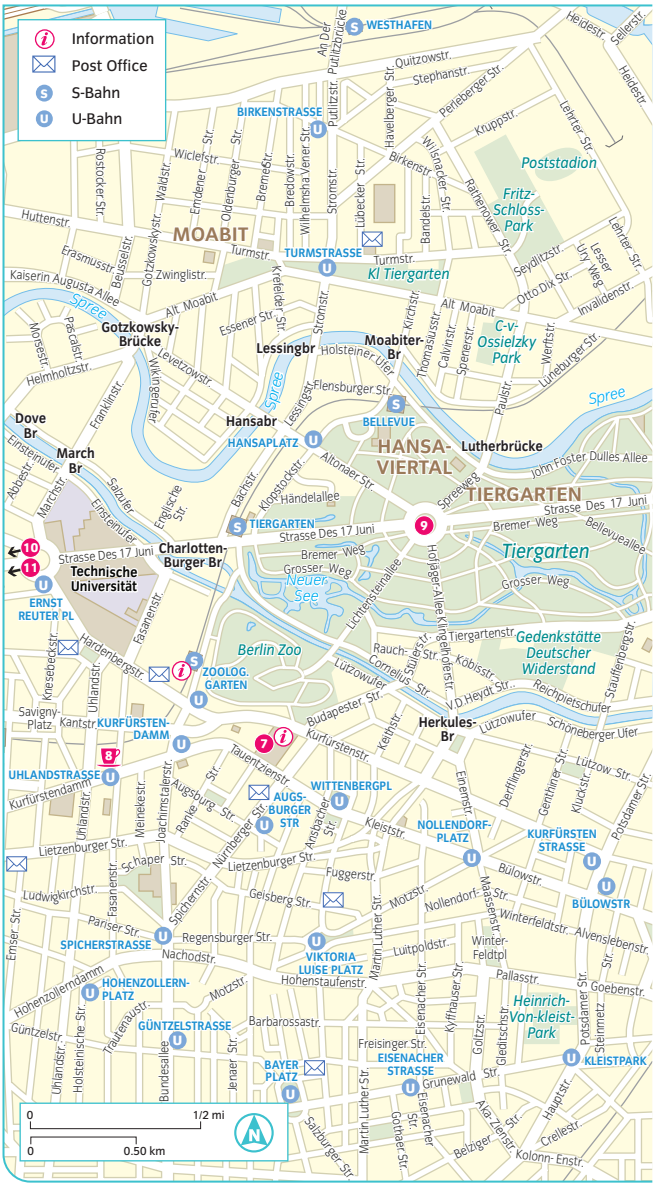
9 ★★ **Funkturm Restaurant.** A glass elevator whizzes you half way up the tower to this sophisticated Art Nouveau restaurant. Enjoy a late lunch of venison goulash and carp in Riesling, or simply relax over a glass of wine. The astounding views from each table are worth the splurge. *Hammarskjöldplatz 1. ☎ 030-30-38-29-00. $$–$$$.*

10 **Wintergarten Variété.** Acrobats and stilt walkers, magicians and conjurers—the Wintergarten is Berlin's most flamboyant cabaret hall. Its glitzy variety performances are as popular now as they were in the 1920s. Back then, this was Europe's biggest and most modern theatre, and sported the first ever revolving stage. The shows are still fabulously over the top—gaze up to see 4,564 stars sparkling in a midnight blue sky. Book tickets ahead (stage-level seats are the most expensive). *See p 136.*



The Funkturm (Radio Tower) illuminated by night.

City Highs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Post Office
S-Bahn
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WESTHAFEN
BIRKENSTRASSE
MOABIT
TURMSTRASSE
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Fritz-Schloss-Park
Gotzkowsky-Brücke
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Technische Universität
ERNST REUTER PL
Tiergarten
Neuen See
Berlin Zoo
ZOOLOG. GARTEN
Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand
KURFÜRSTEN-DAMM
Herkules-Br
UHLANDSTRASSE
WITTENBERGPL
AUGS-BURGER STR
NOLLENDORF-PLATZ
KURFÜRSTEN STRASSE
BÜLOWSTR
SPICHERSTRASSE
VIKTORIA LUISE PLATZ
HOHENZOLLERN-PLATZ
GÜNTZELSTRASSE
BAYER PLATZ
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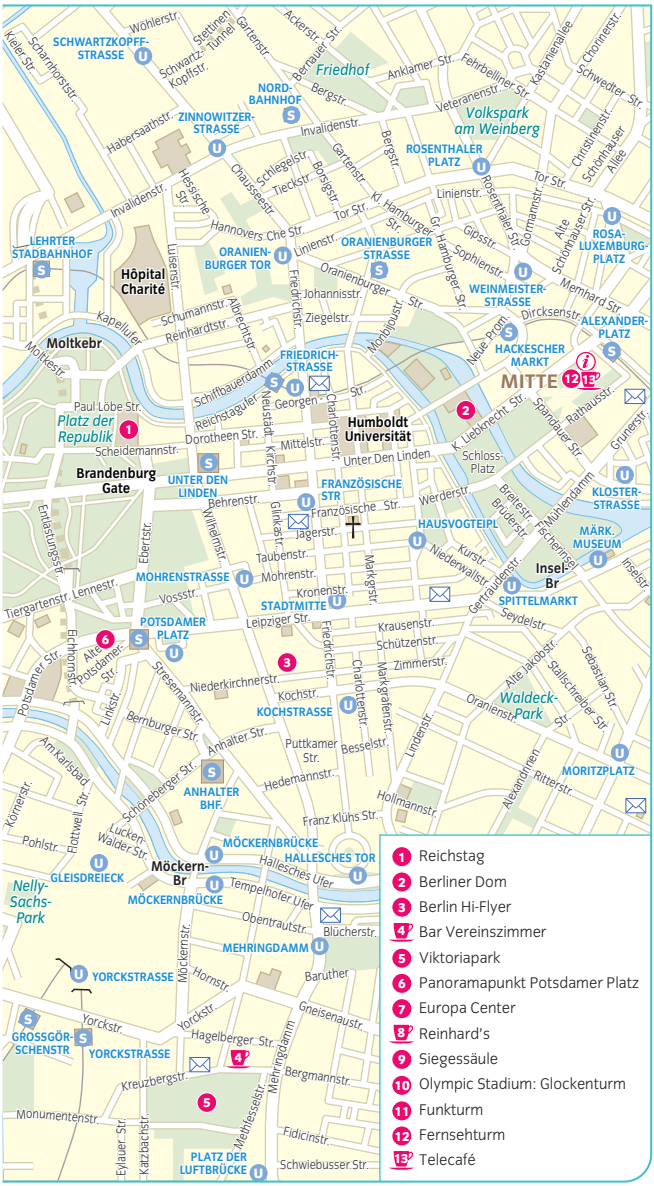


1. Reichstag
2. Berliner Dom
3. Berlin Hi-Flyer
4. Bar Vereinszimmer
5. Viktoriapark
6. Panoramapunkt Potsdamer Platz
7. Europa Center
8. Reinhard's
9. Siegessäule
10. Olympic Stadium: Glockenturm
11. Funkturm
12. Fernsehturm
13. Telecafé

Vista vultures should pack their cameras and a head for heights on this high-rise tour of Berlin. Kick off with the Reichstag's glass cupola and trudge to the top of the Berliner Dom for awesome angles on the city. Still craving more? Ride Europe's fastest elevator in Potsdamer Platz for a 360° panorama, drink in the view from the Fernsehturm's revolving sphere, and see Berlin shrink from the world's largest captive air balloon. Going up.... **START: S-Bahn to Unter den Linden.**

1 ★★ Reichstag. When Sir Norman Foster worked his architectural magic in 1999 to create the Reichstag's bubble-like cupola, he achieved the impossible: he made politics look pretty. Berlin looks tiny from the viewing platform, its cityscape studded with stellar sights from the graceful curves of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt to the Siegessäule peeking above the trees in Tiergarten. Beat the queues by arriving either first thing in the morning or after dark when the skyline is illuminated. 🕘 ***45 min. See p 7.***

Take a flight over Berlin in an original Rosinenbomber.

2 ★ Berliner Dom. You have to earn your views from the Berliner Dom by puffing up 267 steep steps. But it's worth the climb. As you pass through corridors to gallery level, following the signs ***Zur Kuppel*** (to the cupola), you're rewarded with fleeting glimpses of the city. Although not one of Berlin's highest viewpoints, the narrow platform skirting the dome makes it feel like it. Enjoy the sights from your 50m balcony over the city: from the Lustgarten (p 67) to the Reichstag and Rotes Rathaus (p 7, bullet 1). 🕘 ***45 min. See p 9.***

3 ★★★ kids Berlin Hi-Flyer. For a bird's-eye perspective over Berlin, climb into the world's largest tethered balloon. Emblazoned with ***Die Welt*** ("The World", a German newspaper), the blue-and-white helium giant is visible from almost everywhere in the city. The flight is short (just a few minutes) but spectacular, gently rising above the rooftops to 150m. Here the balloon hovers, so you can stroll around the edge and

When the sun shines, locals gather at the foot of the mighty Reichstag.

Eye Candy

Little beats the aerial views on a whirlwind flight in an original Douglas DC-3, the *Rosinenbomber* (Candy Bomber), which shot to fame during the 1948–49 Berlin Airlift (p 54), when pilots threw down parachute-like handkerchiefs filled with sweets to children below. Board the propeller-driven aircraft at Tempelhof Airport (p 166) for an exhilarating 35-minute tour of Berlin's sights from above. You take in Grunewald, Wannsee, Potsdam, and central landmarks from the Olympic Stadium to Tiergarten, Schloss Charlottenburg, and Museum Island. Prices start at 159€ (half price for under-11s). For times and bookings contact **Air Service Berlin** (☎ 030-53-21-53-21; www.air-service-berlin.de).

admire the view stretching from the rainbow-colored GSW building to the Reichstag, Gendarmenmarkt, and far beyond. Bring a sweater as it can get chilly up here. 🕘 ***30 min. Am Checkpoint Charlie, Wilhelmstrasse. ☎ 030-22-66-788-11. www.air-service-berlin.de. Admission 19€ adults, 13€ concessions, 3€ children under 6. Summer Sun–Thurs 10am–10pm, Fri–Sat 10am–12:30am; winter Sun–Thurs 11am–6pm, Fri–Sat 11am–7pm. U-Bahn: Kochstrasse.***

4 Bar Vereinszimmer. Take a pew at this laid-back Kreuzberg café to appreciate the view of Viktoriapark's cascading waterfall. I like to read the papers over an espresso on the pavement terrace, or refuel with a good-value toastie, soup, or sandwich. ***Kreuzbergerstrasse 15. ☎ 030-81-82-87-50. $.***

5 ★★ kids Viktoriapark. Surrounded by lush greenery, the 66m hill at the heart of Viktoriapark is worth the climb. An easy-to-follow trail shadows the waterfall to the summit, Berlin's highest natural point. Crowning the peak is an 1821 monument commemorating victory in the Napoleonic Wars (1803–1815); its cross gives the neighborhood its name (Kreuzberg means "cross hill"). Above the canopy of trees, you can spy landmarks including the Sony Center (p 89) and Siegessäule (p 13). Don't walk here alone after dark. 🕘 ***30 min. Kreuzbergstrasse. Admission free. U-Bahn: Platz der Luftbrücke.***

6 ★ kids Panoramapunkt Potsdamer Platz. Speed freaks can get their thrills with a ride on

Soar above the city in the Berlin Hi-Flyer, the world's largest tethered balloon.

Turning Heads

In late 2009, Tiergarten will have a new star attraction that's guaranteed to turn heads: Europe's largest Ferris wheel. Towering 185m and costing a cool 185€ million to construct, this monster of all big wheels is set to upstage even the London Eye. The glass and steel capsules will each seat 40 passengers and the ride is expected to last 35 minutes.

Europe's fastest elevator, whisking you from ground level to 100m in just 20 seconds. The lift ascends the iconic redbrick Kollhoff-Tower, the highest building in the Daimler-Chrysler Quartier (p 61), rising up where the Berlin Wall once stood. Up among the skyscrapers, the platform on the 25th floor offers a dizzying 360° view of the city's skyline. The tent-like roof of the Sony Center appears incredibly close, and it's possible to spy the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, and River Spree. 🕘 *30 min. Potsdamer Platz 1.* ☎ *030-25-29-43-72. www.panoramapunkt.de. Admission 3.50€ adults, 2.50€ concessions. Daily 11am–8pm. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

Take a break at Art Deco-style Reinhard's on Kurfürstendamm.

7 Europa Center. Interrupt your shopping spree on Ku'damm for views from the 22nd floor of the Europa Center. A lift races you to the observation level, where glass walls afford wide-screen perspectives of Berlin: from the blasted façade of the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtnis-Kirche (p 77) to the glinting Siegessäule. 🕘 *30 min. Breitscheidplatz, Tauentzienstrasse 9–12.* ☎ *030-26-49-79-40. Admission 2€. Mon–Sat 8:30am–8:30pm, Sun 10am–6pm. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten.*

8 ★ **Reinhard's.** When the sun's out, there are few better places than the 1st-floor terrace at this Art Deco-style café. Right by the Adlon Kempinski hotel, Reinhard's overlooks the bustle of Ku'damm and is a fine spot to relax over brunch or coffee and cake. *Kurfürstendamm 27.* ☎ *030-20-45-45-45. $–$$.*

9 ★ kids **Siegessäule.** Tiergarten's patchwork of greenery spreads out beneath you from the top of the Siegessäule. If you're

The Siegessäule memorial is the centerpiece of Grosser Stern roundabout.

feeling fit, scale the 285 steps that spiral up through tunnels to the viewing platform. Here you're almost at the tip of the 1864 triumphal column, just below the golden wings of Victoria. Look east for key sights including the Fernsehturm, Brandenburg Gate, and Reichstag. 🕘 *45 min. See p 13.*

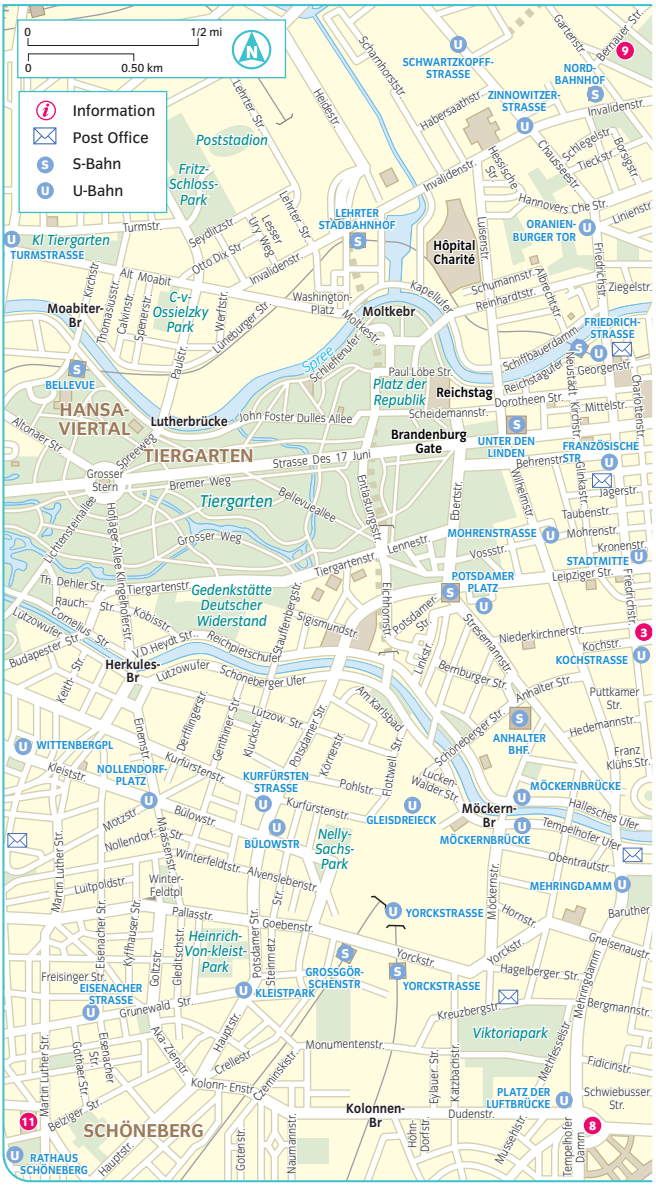
10 Olympic Stadium: Glockenturm. Although it was revamped for soccer's 2006 FIFA World Cup, Berlin's state-of-the-art Olympic Stadium has an appeal that transcends football. A speedy glass elevator zooms to the top of the modernized *Glockenturm* (bell tower), which scores points for its views of the Olympic complex and central Berlin. On clear days, you can see as far as the wooded Müggelberge hills, the Havel Valley, Potsdam, and the green expanses of Grunewald. 🕘 *1 hr. Am Glockenturm.* ☎ *030-305-81-23. www.glockenturm.de. Admission 3.50€ adults, 1.50€ children under 14. Apr–Oct 9am–6pm, Nov–10am–4pm. S-Bahn: Pichelsberg.*

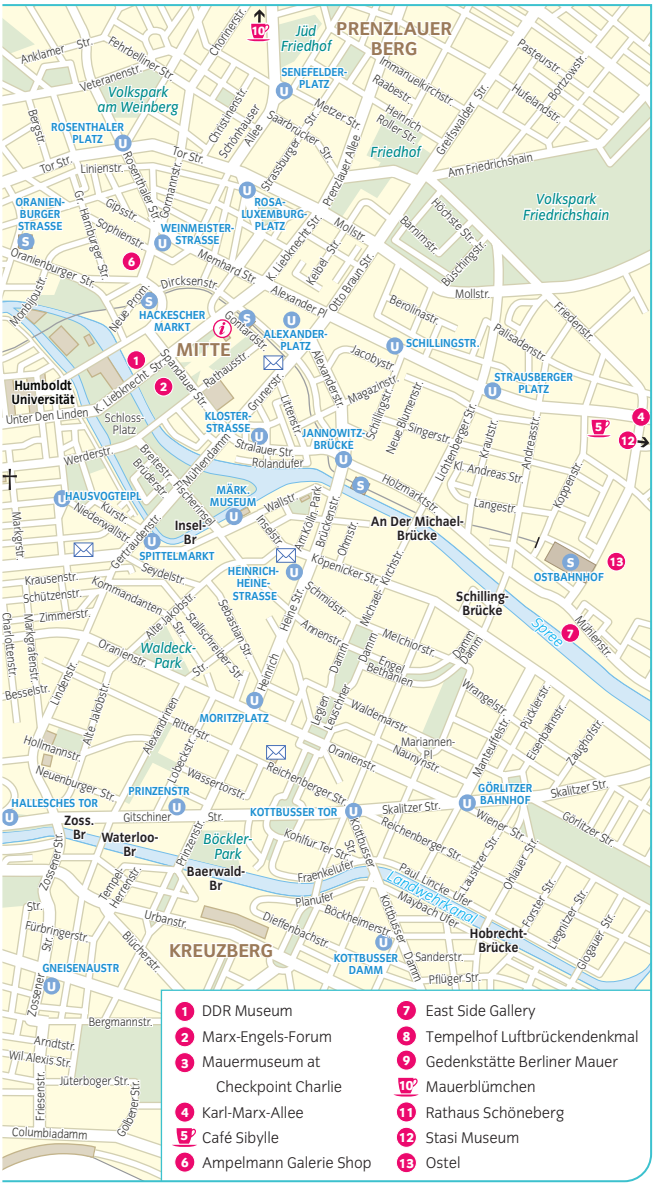
11 ★★ kids Funkturm. Berlin's 1926 radio tower is the place to be when the lights are flicked on at dusk. If you're still raring to go, you can climb 1,600 steps to the platform, but most prefer the ultramodern lift that rockets to the top in 25 seconds. Here Berlin spreads out beneath you, its major landmarks reduced to toytown scale; keep an eye out for the Olympic Stadium, Fernsehturm, Sony Center, and Siegessäule. **Wrap up warm: it gets chilly up here.** 🕘 *45 min. See p 43.*

12 ★★★ kids Fernsehturm. With its iconic wink and silver sphere in orbit, Berlin's tallest building at 368m sneaks into almost every city snapshot. A lift races to the viewing platform in 40 seconds, from where there are vistas of the nearby Nikolaikirche, Rotes Rathaus, and the cupola of the Neue Synagoge. Views extend 40km on a clear day. Note the gold cross that appears on the steel globe when sunlight hits it. When the TV tower was completed in 1969 as a flagship project of the atheist GDR government, the cross was dubbed the *Rache des Papstes* (pope's revenge). 🕘 *45 min. Panoramastrasse 1A.* ☎ *030-24-233-33. www.berlinerfernsehturm.de. Admission 8.50€ adults, 4€ children under 16. Mar–Oct 9am—midnight; Nov–Feb 10am–midnight. U-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

13 Telecafé. Take in head-spinning views from the Fernsehturm's restaurant, which rotates twice an hour. Though touristy and fairly expensive, it's still a fun experience if you just order a coffee. *$$.*

Brick in the Wall

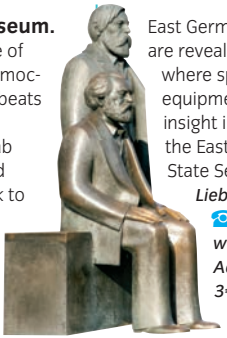




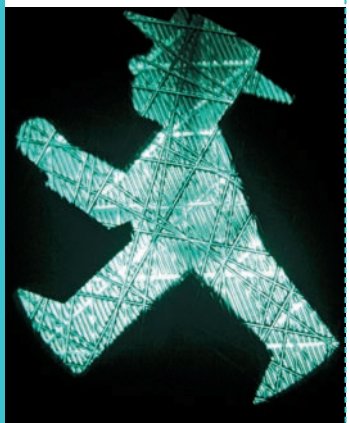
1 DDR Museum
2 Marx-Engels-Forum
3 Mauermuseum at Checkpoint Charlie
4 Karl-Marx-Allee
5 Café Sibylle
6 Ampelmann Galerie Shop
7 East Side Gallery
8 Tempelhof Luftbrückendenkmal
9 Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer
10 Mauerblümchen
11 Rathaus Schöneberg
12 Stasi Museum
13 Ostel

From 1961 to 1989, the Berlin Wall divided the city in two. Visit today and you find that remarkably little remains of this Cold War symbol. Flashbacks to Communist rule in East Berlin include the monumental Karl-Marx-Allee and great escapes at Checkpoint Charlie. This tour rides the wave of Ostalgia (nostalgia for the former East Germany), which has swept the capital. Whether it's a spin in a belching Trabant, or a night in the Stasi suite, you can discover real life beyond the Wall. Unlike the concrete, it never crumbled. **START: S-Bahn to Friedrichstrasse.**

1 ★★★ kids DDR Museum. For a hands-on experience of daily life in the German Democratic Republic (GDR), little beats this museum by the River Spree. Laid out like a prefab housing estate, 17 themed rooms time-warp you back to the former East Germany, which existed from 1949 until 1990. Everything on display can be touched: answer the phone in the Soviet-era living room, rummage through closets, or rev the engine of a Trabant. From typical food brands to the famous FDJ (Free German Youth) shirts, Erika typewriters to table football, the museum takes a fond look at everyday lives of ordinary East Germans. Harsh realities are revealed in the Stasi room, where spy and bugging equipment gives a creepy insight into the activities of the East German Ministry for State Security. 🕘 *1 hr. Karl-Lieb-knecht-Strasse 1.* ☎ *030-847-12-37-31. www.ddr-museum.de. Admission 5€ adults, 3€ concessions. Daily 10am–8pm, Sat until 10pm. S-Bahn Friedrichstrasse.*



Get to the Marx-Engels-Forum early to beat the crowds.



The iconic Ampelmännchen (traffic-light man) at the DDR Museum.

2 Marx-Engels-Forum. The officially atheist GDR was not without its "religious" figures. These included economist-philosophers Karl Marx (1818–1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820–1895), the founding fathers of Socialism and authors of the ***Communist Manifesto*** (1848), which spearheaded the Communist movement Europe-wide. Immortalized in bronze, the pair loom above this square in former East Berlin. Note Werner Stötzer's 1985 Bulgarian marble relief wall behind them, depicting people in an early Capitalist society. Snap-happy tourists should attempt to capture the exaggerated features of an earnest Marx (sitting) and Engels (standing). Get here early for the best light and fewer crowds. 🕘 ***30 min. Marx-Engels-Forum. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.***

Go Trabi, Go!

Take a trip down memory lane behind the wheel of a Trabant (nicknamed "Trabi"), the classic GDR car with a Duroplast body and smoky two-cylinder engine. Back in the not-so-good-old days, folk in East Germany had to wait up to 18 years for one of these slow, unreliable boneshakers. **Trabi Safaris** (☎ 030-27-59-22-73; www.trabi-safari.de) are a fun way to discover Berlin beyond the well-trodden tourist track. A 1½ hour spin of the "Wild East" whizzes past the East Side Gallery (bullet 7) and down Karl-Marx-Allee (bullet 4). Simply book your tour, pick your dream Trabi, and step on the gas—up to 30km/h—as a radio guide talks you through the sights. Tours costing 25€–35€ per person depart daily, 10am to 6pm, from the corner of Wilhelmstrasse and Zimmerstrasse.

3 ★ Mauermuseum at Checkpoint Charlie. Opposite the reconstructed guardhouse at Checkpoint Charlie (p 15, bullet 2), this diminutive museum traces the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall. Though the museum can be cramped at times, it's still a touching portrayal of once-divided Berlin. Alongside black-and-white photos narrating the history of the Wall are videos screening significant events including John F. Kennedy's 1963 "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. Allow time for the incredible stories of escape attempts from East to West Berlin, where ingenuity stretched from shovels for digging tunnels and hidden compartments in cars to faux Soviet uniforms and hot-air balloons. 🕘 *45 min. Friedrichstrasse 43–45 ☎ 030-53-72-50. www.mauermuseum.de. Admission 9.50€ adults, 5.50€ concessions. Daily 9am–10pm. U-Bahn: Kochstrasse.*

Happy driver behind the wheel a Trabant on a Trabi Safari.

4 ★★ Karl-Marx-Allee. Almost 2km long and 90m wide, the scale of this monumental East Berlin boulevard is dizzying. Built in the 1950s and named Stalinallee until 1961, it was the showcase for the grand designs of Socialist Realism, and provided the backdrop for Soviet tanks, marching soldiers, and the annual May Day parade. To appreciate its dimensions, walk all the way to the mighty watchtowers of the 1956 Frankfurter Tor gateway. The avenue is lined with eight-storey buildings that are as intimidating as they are impressive, erected in the ***Zuckerbäckerstil*** (wedding-cake style) with soaring lines and Ionic pillars. If you're experiencing déjà vu, it's probably because many scenes in the bittersweet German comedy ***Goodbye Lenin*** (2003) were filmed here. 🕘 *45 min. Karl-Marx-Allee. U-Bahn: Schillingstrasse or Frankfurter Tor.*

5 **Café Sibylle.** For plain 1960s food with a dollop of Cold War charm, take a break at this café. Filling snacks such as ragout or curd cheese potatoes are polished off with vanilla ice cream. You eat surrounded by GDR posters and curios, including a fragment of stone moustache—all that's left of a once mighty Stalin statue. ***Karl-Marx-Allee 72. ☎ 030-29-35-22-03. $.***

6 **Ampelmann Galerie Shop.** Keep an eye out when you cross the road for the beloved traffic-light man, or ***Ampelmännchen***, a lasting symbol from the GDR that has now achieved cult status. Threatened with extinction when the Wall crumbled, the little man has survived at most pedestrian crossings. Walk this way for ***Ampelmännchen*** memorabilia from T-shirts to flip-flops, candy, corkscrews, and lamps. 🕘 ***20 min. Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-44-04-88-01. www.ampelmann.de. Mon–Sat 10am–10pm, Sun 11am–7pm. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.***

7 ★★ kids **East Side Gallery.** Make a beeline for the longest and best preserved stretch of the Berlin Wall, near Ostbahnhof station. This 1.3km open-air gallery displays 106 politically charged airbrush works, painted by artists from 21 countries, which gave the concrete a new *raison d'être* in 1990. The works now serve as a memorial to German freedom. One of the most controversial pieces is Dimitrij Vrubel's ***Bruderkuss*** (Brotherly Kiss), showing former Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev and East German leader Erich Honecker kissing. Sadly, some of the original murals to celebrate German reunification are now looking worse for wear, but there are plans to give them a fresh lick of paint. 🕘 ***45 min. See p 15.***

8 **Tempelhof Luftbrückendenkmal.** Sweeping above Platz der Luftbrücke, this memorial on a square close to Tempelhof Airport remembers the 78 victims of the Berlin Airlift (1948–1949), when Soviets blocked all the major rail and road routes to West Berlin. It was one of the first major crises of the Cold War (1947–1991). The only way the Western allies —the U.S., U.K., and France—could deliver much-needed supplies was by air. Notice the trio of arching prongs symbolizing the three air corridors used to fly in provisions. Berliners nickname the memorial the ***Hungerharke*** (hunger rake). Once home to military barracks, the pine-fringed square is now a peaceful spot for contemplation. 🕘 ***45 min. Platz der Luftbrücke 1. U-Bahn: Platz der Luftbrücke.***

Wall art at the East Side Gallery — the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall.

Milestones in History

Next time you're at the Brandenburg Gate (p 7), Bernauer Strasse (p 55), or Potsdamer Platz (p 11), look down as well as up. You'll notice a double row of red cobblestones, punctuated by metal plaques that bear the inscription: "Berliner Mauer 1961–1989." The Berlin Wall History Mile marks where the Wall once stood, and is a startling flashback to how the divided city must have looked. 29 information panels complement this line of pavestones, providing some historical background on the Wall, including several accounts of escape attempts.

9 ★ Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer. Bernauer Strasse is one of the few places where you can view the Berlin Wall as it really was: crude and unadorned. Commemorating victims of Communist tyranny, this memorial is the only location where you can still see the "death strip", a narrow corridor between the two walls that was booby-trapped and patrolled by guards. It's an ugly sight. Right opposite, the Documentation Center takes an in-depth look at the construction of the Wall with text, photos, and film excerpts. Next door, peek inside the oval-shaped Kapelle der Versöhnung (Chapel of Reconciliation), built from rammed earth and wooden staves, which opened in 2000 to replace a church torn down when the Wall was erected. *1 hr. Bernauer Strasse 111. 030-464-10-30. Admission free. Documentation Center Apr-Oct 10am–6pm; Nov–Mar 10am–5pm, closed Mon. U-Bahn: Bernauer Strasse.*

10 ★ Mauerblümchen. Aptly named "wallflower", this no-frills restaurant in Prenzlauer Berg rolls out GDR favorites such as spicy ***Solyanka*** (Russian beef and vegetable stew) and ***Schmalzbrot*** (bread and dripping) in nostalgic surroundings. *Wisbyer Strasse 4. 030-444-79-04. $.*

11 Rathaus Schöneberg. The nondescript façade of Tempelhof-Schöneberg's city hall dating to 1914 belies its exceptional history. On June 26, 1963, US president John F. Kennedy gave a speech to express US support for a democratic West Germany: "All free men, wherever they may live, are citizens of Berlin, and, therefore, as a free man, I take pride in the words 'Ich bin ein Berliner'." A bronze plaque pays homage to the former president who was assassinated in 1964, shortly after the construction of the Wall. Visit the clock tower sheltering

The three-pronged Tempelhof Luftbrückendenkmal commemorating the Berlin Airlift (1948-1949).

JOHN F·KENNEDY
ZU PRAESIDENT DER VEREINIGTEN STAATEN
VON AMERIKA SPRACH IN DER MITTAGSSTUNDE
DES 26 JUNI 1963 AN DIESER STAETTE ZU DEN
BUERGERN BERLINS
IHRER VERSAMMELTEN SICH IN DER NACHT DES 22 NOVEM-
BER 1963 DIE BERLINER ZUR TOTENKLAGE FUER DEN
ERMORDETEN STAATSMANN
IN DANK UND EHRFURCHT ENTHUELLTEN SIE
AM 26 JUNI 1964 IHREM GROSSEN FREUNDE
ZUM GEDAECHTNIS DIESE TAFEL
MITEINANDER WERDEN WIR UNSERE
ERDE RETTEN ODER MITEINANDER IN
DEN FLAMMEN IHRES BRANDES UMKOMMEN
ABER RETTEN KOENNEN UND RETTEN MUESSEN
WIR SIE UND DAMIT WERDEN WIR UNS DEN
EWIGEN DANK DER MENSCHHEIT
VERDIENEN UND ALS
FRIEDENSSTIFTER DEN

Plaque to John F. Kennedy at Rathaus Schöneberg.

the Freiheitsglocke (Freedom Bell), which the people of the United States donated to Berlin in 1950; come at midday to hear it chime. *1 hr. John-F.-Kennedy-Platz 1. U-Bahn: Bayerischer Platz.*

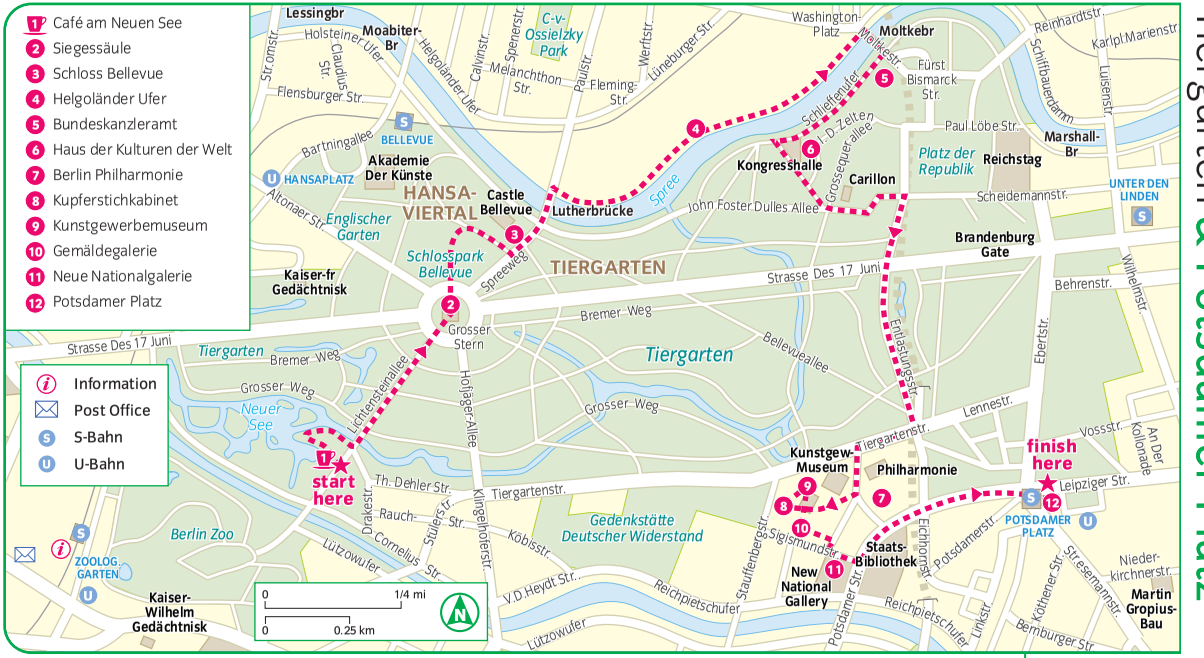
⓬ ★★ **Stasi Museum.** This eerie museum occupies the former headquarters of the East Ministry for State Security or Stasi (1950–1990). It revisits the days when 85,000 Communist secret police gathered intelligence by spying on their own citizens and paying 170,000 informers to record the lives of friends, colleagues, and families. This violation of human rights took place on a vast scale, creating 17 million index cards and files that if laid out end-to-end would stretch 180km. The stark rooms display GDR medals, flags, photos, and spying equipment including cameras and infrared beamers. The exhibition on resistance reveals how thousands of citizens were kidnapped and imprisoned in inhumane conditions. Don't miss the drab office of Erich Mielke, Stasi head from 1957–1989, preserved in its original state. Pick up an English booklet at the entrance as most information is in German. *45 min. Ruschestrasse 103. 030-553-68-54. www.stasimuseum.de. Admission 4€ adults, 3€ concessions. Mon–Fri 11am–6pm, Sat–Sun 2pm–6pm. U-Bahn: Magdalenenstrasse.*

⓭ ★ **Ostel.** If you're not already dreaming of the GDR, you will be when you enter this tower block hotel, oozing *Ostalgia* from every Soviet pore. A picture of beaming East German official Horst Sindermann (1915–1990) graces the reception, where clocks show the time in Moscow, Havana, and Beijing. Snooze under portraits of politicians in a prefab apartment, check into the Stasi suite complete with bugging devices, or opt for a 9€ bed in the budget pioneer dorm. With its drab wallpaper and GDR relics, the Ritz it ain't; so pack a sense of humor. *Wriezener Karree 5. 030-25-76-86-60. www.ostel.eu. Doubles 38–59€. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof.*

Ostel Hotel.

3 The Best Neighborhood Walks

Tiergarten & Potsdamer Platz



This tour fuses Berlin's natural and manmade wonders. You begin in the serene woodlands and lakes of Tiergarten, from where the River Spree guides you past the neoclassical grandeur of Schloss Bellevue to stellar sights such as the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. Stepping south brings you to Kulturforum galleries showcasing Rembrandt and Picasso. As night falls, nip across to Potsdamer Platz as the city starts to twinkle. START: **S-Bahn to Tiergarten.**

Manicured lawns sweep up to Prussian palace Schloss Bellevue.

1 kids **Café am Neuen See.** Hemmed in by trees, this lakefront beer garden is the perfect spot to begin your day with coffee and people-watching. Late risers can join the Sunday crowds for ***Fruhschoppen*** (pre-lunch beers). ***See p 20.***

2 ★★ **Siegessäule.** Just around the corner, the belle of Tiergarten towers above the Grosser Stern roundabout. The golden Victoria statue is to Tiergarten what a fairy is to a Christmas tree. You need to get up close to this iconic monument to Prussian war victories to appreciate its ornate murals and mosaics, depicting the battles of the 19th-century Franco-Prussian and Austro-Prussian wars. Feeling sprightly? Scramble up to the platform for fantastic vistas across the treetops to central Berlin. ***30 min. See p 13.***

3 **Schloss Bellevue.** The mature woodlands linking Grosser Stern to Schloss Bellevue are particularly striking in their autumn finery of crimson and gold. Stride across the neatly clipped lawns to reach the three-winged façade of this baroque beauty. Built in 1786 for Prince Ferdinand of Prussia, it has been the official residence of the German president since 1994. Supported by Corinthian columns, the gables are embellished with allegorical figures that represent agriculture, fishing, and hunting. ***20 min. See p 13.***

4 ★ kids **Helgoländer Ufer.** On a sunny day the maple- and willow-fringed banks of the River Spree draw everyone from young couples to joggers and stroller-pushing parents. As tour boats glide past, and landmarks such as the Bundeskanzleramt (bullet 5) and the Haus der Kulturen der Welt (bullet 6) slide into view, I plant myself on one of the benches and soak up the atmosphere. ***45 min.***

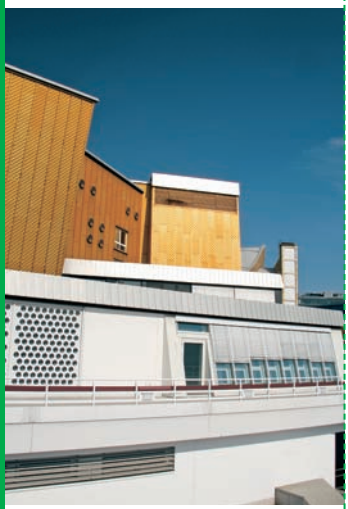
5 ★ **Bundeskanzleramt.** This dazzling white cube houses the office of the German chancellor, Angela Merkel, the country's prime minister. Built in 2001, the postmodernist concrete-and-glass chancellery is the brainchild of Berlin architects Axel

Schultes and Charlotte Frank. This modern-day icon, defined by clean lines and slender pillars, lords it over the Regierungsviertel (government quarter). Creeping vines swathe the columns and appear to soften their sharp edges. 🕘 *20 min. See p 38.*

6 ★ kids Haus der Kulturen der Welt. If you like shellfish, this is an oyster of monumental proportions. A gift from the U.S. government to Berlin in 1957, the cultural venue always has me reaching for my camera. Cross the Spree to get close to its arched roof, dappled with sunlight from the reflection of the Spiegelteich (mirror pond). 🕘 *15 min. See p 12.*

7 Berlin Philharmonie. German architect Hans Scharoun channeled his vision into revamping this corner of Berlin in the 1960s. The honeycombed façade and pointy peaks of his philharmonic hall look like some kind of abstract crown. Classical music fans admire it more for its fabulous acoustics, particularly when the resident Berliner Philharmonic Orchestra, conducted by Brit Sir Simon Rattle, is in the pit. 🕘 *15 min. See p 39.*

The golden, honeycombed façade of the Berlin Philharmonie.



8 ★ Kupferstichkabinett. This gallery creaks under the weight of its peerless graphic arts collection, Germany's largest with 500,000 works on paper. Among its cache of prints, drawings, pastels, and oils are star pieces by Renaissance painter and engraver Albrecht Dürer (1471–1528), Dutch Golden Age master Rembrandt van Rijn (1606–1669), and Florentine Renaissance wizard Sandro Botticelli (1444–1510), plus 20th-century masterpieces by Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. Selected works from the collection are presented in rotating exhibitions that focus on a solo artist or theme. 🕘 *1 hr. Matthäikirchplatz 8.* ☎ *030-266-20-02. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

9 Kunstgewerbemuseum. This treasure-trove of decorative arts shelters everything from Renaissance bronze and Meissen porcelain to delicate Venetian glassware and majolica (glazed earthenware). First floor highlights include the Welfenschatz, a gold reliquary casket, and a damask miter embroidered with pearls. Upstairs the collection is a whirl of taffeta ball gowns, Chinese ceramics, and hand-crafted glass. Look out for the Merseburger Spiegelkabinett, an 18th-century room carved from linden wood and adorned with gold, ivory, and mirrors. 🕘 *45 min. Herbert-von-Karajan-Strasse 10.* ☎ *030-266-29-02. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions. Tues–Fri 10am–6pm, Sat–Sun 11am–6pm. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

10 ★★★ Gemäldegalerie. Old Master paintings beam down from the walls at Berlin's most essential picture gallery. Art buffs will be cap-

tivated by works from the brushes of Peter Paul Rubens, Titian, Botticelli, Goya, Andrea Mantegna, and—best of all—Rembrandt van Rijn, whose masterpieces take up a whole room. You need time if you plan to explore all 72 rooms; or pick up a gallery map to pinpoint the highlights. 🕘 *1 hr. See p 11.*

11 ★★ Neue Nationalgalerie. Bringing you back to the 20th century, the New National Gallery hosts a star-studded line-up of modern and contemporary artists. Architect Mies van der Rohe's 1968 glass-and-steel edifice provides the backdrop for recent European painting and sculpture. Cubist works by Pablo Picasso and surrealist pieces by Salvador Dali (1904–1989) hang alongside Bauhaus creations by Swiss Paul Klee (1879–1940) and his friend, Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky (1866–1944). Conceived by Berlin architect Walter Gropius in 1919, the ethos of the Bauhaus school was to unite form and function. The school was a galvanic force in Modernist architecture and a staunch opposer of Expressionism, or subjective interpretations of reality for emotional impact. Labeling Bauhaus styles un-German and Communist-inspired, Nazis closed down the school in 1933. 🕘 *1 hr. Potsdamer Strasse 50.* ☎ *030-266-26-51. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz.*

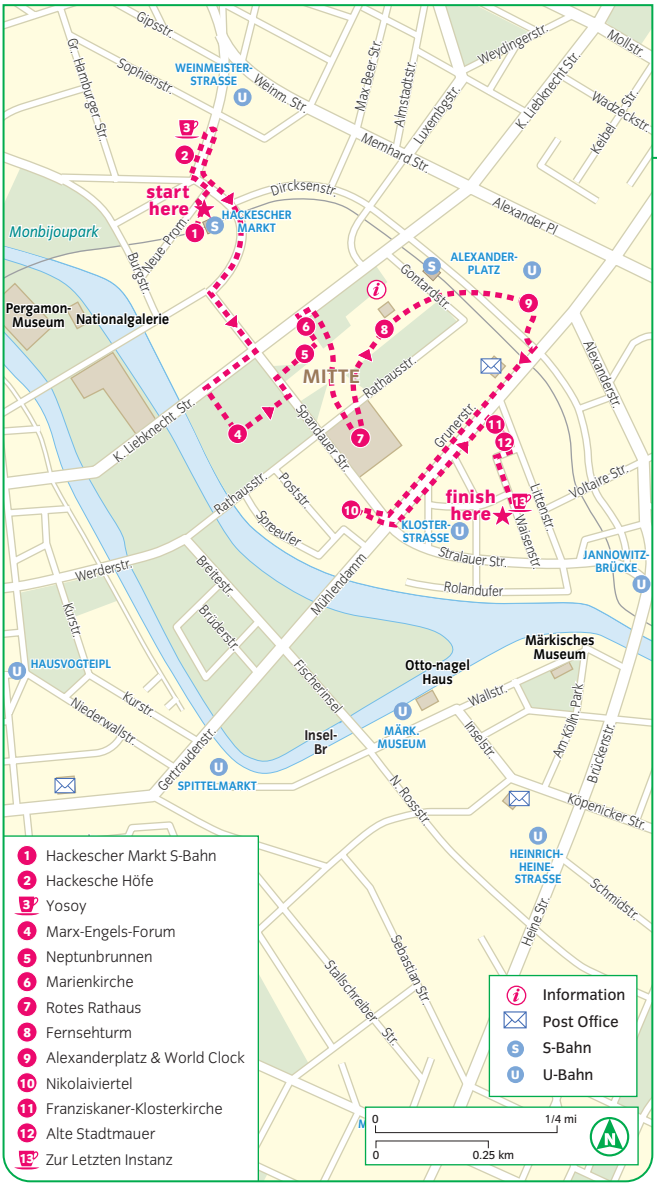
The station entrance on Potsdamer Platz.

12 Potsdamer Platz. After immersing yourself in art for the afternoon, see the lights illuminate Berlin's futuristic Potsdamer Platz. Designed by German-American architect Helmut Jahn and inaugurated in 2,000, the crystalline Sony Center (p 89) looks otherworldly when it glows silver-blue and magenta by night. Equally flashy is the Daimler-Chrysler Quartier, which emerged from the rubble of the Berlin Wall and took shape under acclaimed Italian architect Renzo Piano. It's one of Europe's largest urban development projects. Potsdamer Platz always has a buzz, but it's fab to be here in the evening when the skyscrapers glitter and locals meet for pre-theater drinks. 🕘 *30 min. See p 11.*

On Yer Bike!

If you're tired of walking, join a guided bike tour to speed things up. American-owned **Fat Tire Bike Tours** (☎ 030-24-04-79-91; www.fattirebiketoursberlin.com) has comfy bikes for cruising and native English-speaking guides, with branches at Zoologischer Garten station and Alexanderplatz. Their 4½ hour Berlin City Bike Tour (20€; students and seniors 18€) is a fun way to meet like-minded pedal pushers. You trundle through the greenery of Tiergarten and along the banks of the Spree, taking in sights including Siegesäule (p 13, bullet 10), Museum Island (p 66), and Checkpoint Charlie (p 15, bullet 2). Tours depart daily at 11am from the Fernsehturm on Alexanderplatz from March to November; also at 4pm from mid-May to late September.

Nikolaiviertel & Surrounds



This tour kicks off at Hackescher Markt, where railway arches harbor some of Berlin's hippest boutiques and bars. After a spin around the sights of Alexanderplatz, a jump to the west brings you to the Nikolaiviertel, Berlin's medieval core, with cobbles for strolling and a cluster of curiosity shops. Off the beaten track, surprises include bears in the park—I kid you not—and an enchanting Franciscan monastery. START: **S-Bahn to Hackescher Markt.**

1 ★ Hackescher Markt S-Bahn. Start your tour at Berlin's loveliest S-Bahn station, built in 1882 at the height of the railway boom, with its curvy windows, high-ceilinged halls, and fiery red bricks. It was originally nicknamed Bahnhof Börse (Stock Exchange Station) because of its proximity to the Berlin Stock Exchange. Today these railway arches harbor trendy bars, restaurants, and boutiques that lure locals and tourists to one of the city's up-and-coming areas. It's hard to believe that until the 19th century, there was nothing here but marshy wasteland. 🕘 ***15 min. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.***

2 kids Hackesche Höfe. Edging slightly north, the eight interlinking courtyards of the Hackesche Höfe exude Art Nouveau flair. The prettiest is Hof I, with glazed mosaic walls in myriad shades. Potter around the specialist shops for everything from cutting-edge ***couture*** to Art Deco bangles. Alternatively, unwind on a café terrace for espresso and a spot of people-watching. 🕘 ***30 min. See p 11.***

3 Yosoy. Great for brunch or lunch, this Spanish hangout whets my appetite with its yummy tapas selection. Pull up a stool to munch on stuffed peppers, garlic prawns, and wedges of tortilla. ***Rosenthaler Strasse 37. ☎ 030-28-39-12-13. $–$$.***

4 Marx-Engels-Forum. Looping back towards Alexanderplatz brings you through this tree-fringed square, where statues of a seated Karl Marx and standing Friedrich Engels form the centerpiece. The larger-than-life fathers of socialism today draw camera-toting tourists as much as readers of their 1848 ***Communist Manifesto***. The square is a fine place to get your bearings; from here many landmarks are visible including the Rotes Rathaus (bullet 7) and the Nikolaikirche (bullet 10). 🕘 ***20 min.***

5 ★ kids Neptunbrunnen. Approaching the Fernsehturm, your gaze is drawn to the Neptunbrunnen fountain, where the Roman god of the sea rises high inside a giant clam shell. At Neptune's feet are water nymphs personifying Germany's main rivers including the Elbe, Rhine, and Oder. When the sun's out, kids love to splash in the shallow water and bask in the spray.

Neptune towers above the nymphs at the Neptunbrunnen fountain.

15 min. Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.

6 Marienkirche. Opposite Neptunbrunnen stands the 14th-century Marienkirche, Berlin's second-oldest church after Nikolaikirche (bullet 10). Note the baroque steeple, an 18th-century addition by architect Carl Gotthard Langhans of Brandenburg Gate fame. The vaulted interior hides a sublime alabaster pulpit (1703), decorated with reliefs personifying faith, hope, and love. Near the entrance is the 22m-long ***Dance of the Dead***. The 15th-century fresco symbolizes the plague that struck Europe in the Dark Ages. *20 min. Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 8. 030-242-44-67. Admission free. Apr–Oct daily 10am–9pm; Nov–Mar daily 10am–4pm. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

The World Clock is a popular meeting place on Berlin's Alexanderplatz.

7 ★ Rotes Rathaus. Just across the way is Berlin's flame-red town hall, built in 1869 with an Italian Renaissance twist. A filigree gate, stained-glass windows, and columns guide your eye to the central 74m tower. Its architectural antithesis, the Fernsehturm (bullet 8), pops up right behind. Time permitting, return at dusk when the last light makes its bricks blush a deeper shade of terra-cotta. *15 min. Rathausstrasse 15. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

8 ★★ Fernsehturm. Berlin's loveable *Telespargel* ("TV asparagus"), on Alexanderplatz, is impossible to ignore. If its steel sphere glinting in the sunshine doesn't grab your attention, its iconic wink after dark surely will. But the giant relic of the GDR is best appreciated with a speedy ascent to its 200m viewing platform, from where the city spreads out below. *45 min. See p 49.*

9 ★ Alexanderplatz and the World Clock. Alfred Döblin penned a crime novel about it, the GDR government turned it into a showcase for their trademark tower blocks, and Berliners affectionately dubbed it Alex. Just don't expect a beautiful square: prefab 1960s monoliths are a throwback to when Alexanderplatz was the epicenter of East Berlin. It does, though, have a kind of urban charm with its rattling trams and eternal buzz. A popular gathering place is the revolving World Clock, crowned by a model of the solar system that tells the time in 24 time zones from Istanbul to Sydney. *15 min. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

10 ★ kids Nikolaiviertel. Leave the commotion behind and slip into a more leisurely pace in Berlin's medieval heart, the Nikolaiviertel. With its smooth cobbles and jumble of cute houses, this pedestrianized district is made for strolling. I like to poke around in its specialty shops or sip a beer on the square facing the twin-spired Nikolaikirche, Berlin's oldest church dating to 1230 (p 157, bullet 2). On the banks of the River Spree, the 19th-century Kurfürstenhaus (Electoral House), a step-gabled townhouse in German neo-Renaissance style, leads through to a tranquil courtyard. The dusky pink Knoblauchhaus (Garlic House) nearby is a flashback to the simple yet elegant architecture of the Biedermeier age (1815–1848). It doesn't take its name from the pungent bulb, but rather its first owner, Johann Christian Knoblauch. Also worth a peek is the Ephraim-Palais, a grand rococo townhouse built by Friedrich Wilhelm Diterichs for the affluent merchant

Grin & Bear it

Who's cute, fluffy and getting bigger by the day? Superstar polar bear Knut at Berlin Zoo.

Celebrity polar bear Knut (p 26, bullet 2) may be cute, but brown bears have been Berlin's official mascots since 1280, appearing on the city's flag and coat of arms. There are many tales of how brown bears came to represent Berlin, but one of the most plausible is that Berlin sounds like *Bär* (bear). South of the Nikolaiviertel on the other side of the Spree, you reach the greenery of Köllnischer Park. Kids (even big kids) will be all smiles when they come face to face with Maxi and her daughter, Schnute, in the bear pit. You can visit the bears for free anytime during daylight hours; feeding time is daily at 12.30pm.

Veitel Heine Ephraim in 1765. With its slender pillars and gilded filigree balconies, it's little wonder locals used to call this the ***schönste Ecke Berlins*** (Berlin's most beautiful corner). *1½ hr. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz.*

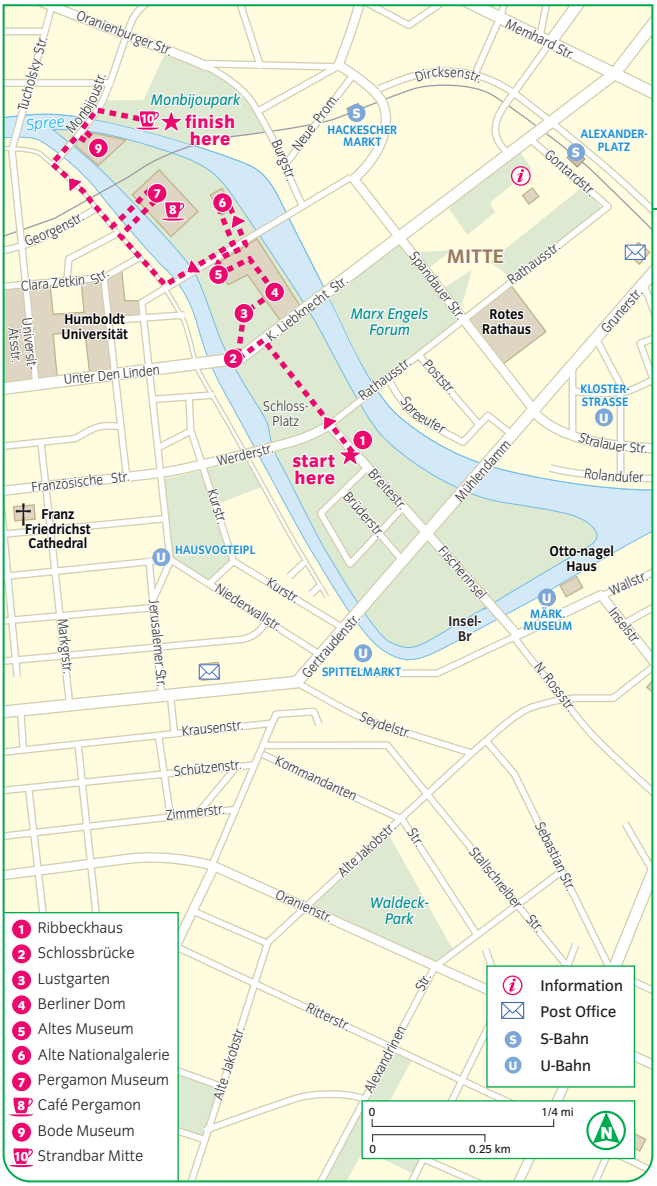
11 ★ Franziskaner-Klosterkirche. A short amble east of Nikolaiviertel brings you to the redbrick remains of this eerie Franciscan monastery church (1250). The three-winged basilica became a grammar school in 1574 during the Protestant Reformation, later spawning such talent as architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781–1841) and Germany's first chancellor, Otto von Bismarck (1815–1898). Silence always reigns at this Gothic edifice, which was heavily bombed in World War II and is today little more than a shell with a blasted roof and shattered walls. Step inside to admire the Fernsehturm through the arches, or glimpse the sculpture of Jesus removing his crown of thorns near the entrance. *20 min. Klosterstrasse 73a. ☎ 030-636-12-13. Tues–Sun 12pm–6pm. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse.*

12 Alte Stadtmauer. If you thought Berlin's only wall was the one that came down in 1989, you might be surprised to discover what remains of the medieval city walls tucked down this quiet street. It's not much to look at, but alas this is all that remains of ramparts that completely ringed Berlin in the 14th century. *10 min. Littenstrasse. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse.*

13 ★ Zur Letzten Instanz. This wayside inn of yore has satisfied punters with no-nonsense fare since 1621. Rest weary feet by the tiled oven that once warmed Napoleon, and tuck into carnivorous staples such as schnitzel and pork knuckles. *Waisenstrasse 14–16. ☎ 030-242-55-28. $$$*

The Franziskaner-Klosterkirche — a little-known gem close to Alexanderplatz.

Museum Island



Waving the UNESCO World Heritage flag for Berlin, Museum Island has enough fabulous architecture, art, and antique gems to satisfy anyone's cultural cravings. Be transported back to Ancient Greece while climbing the steps of the Pergamon Altar, or to Egypt while gazing into the eyes of Nefertiti. Or trace the more recent brushstrokes of Cézanne and Toulouse-Lautrec at the Alte Nationalgalerie. The greenery of Lustgarten, lazy river cruises, and sundowners beside the Spree offer respite for museum-weary feet. **START: U-Bahn to Märkisches Museum.**

1 Ribbeckhaus. It's worth starting slightly south of Museum Island to find the gabled Ribbeckhaus, one of Berlin's best-preserved early baroque edifices dating back to 1624. The ornamental façade recalls its grand past when it was home to the noble privy councilor Hans Georg von Ribbeck and his wife Katharina von Brösicke. ◴ ***15 min. Breitestrasse 35. U-Bahn: Märkisches Museum.***

2 Schlossbrücke. With its trio of arches and dreamy river views, Karl Friedrich Schinkel's curvaceous bridge linking Unter den Linden to Schlossplatz is a walkable work of art. Cross it to glimpse mythological Greek goddesses, Athena and Nike, sculpted from white marble and perched on pedestals. Morning and dusk are the best time to photograph the bridge with the Berliner Dom in the background. ◴ ***10 min, U-Bahn: Französische Strasse.***

3 kids Lustgarten. Sweeping up to the Berliner Dom and Altes Museum, this manicured garden on the banks of the Spree is a fine spot for lounging on the lawns. Framed by lime trees, the Lustgarten was the pleasure garden of the Hohenzollern royals in the 16th century. Its centerpiece is a fountain, arched by a rainbow when the sun shines. ◴ ***15 min. Schlossplatz. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.***

4 ★ Berliner Dom. After a leisurely start, you're probably still fizzing with energy. And you'll need it to climb the 267 steps to the top of the dome of Berlin's neo-baroque cathedral built between 1895 and 1905. High up beside the angels, the vistas reward your efforts, reaching from the Rotes Rathaus to the Reichstag and beyond. The exit leads through the crypt, where ornate sarcophagi include that of King

The greenery of Lustgarten is the perfect spot to appreciate the Berliner Dom.

The opulent interior of the neo-Renaissance Berliner Dom.

Frederick III (1415–1493), the last emperor to be crowned in Rome by a pope, in 1452. *45 min. See p 9.*

5 ★★ kids **Altes Museum.** Karl Friedrich Schinkel fashioned this museum's soaring Ionic columns in 1825, drawing inspiration from the architecture of ancient Athens. Inside, the vast repository of antiquities takes you on a romp through Ancient Greece and Rome, showcasing everything from Cycladic urns and sarcophagi to Corinthian vessels and marble sculptures of lithe Roman athletes. Until the Neues Museum reopens in 2009, it's also playing host to Berlin's Egyptian treasures including funerary masks and canopic jars. These, however, are eclipsed by the bust of mysterious Queen Nefertiti, wife of Egypt's heretic King Akhenaten, dating back to 1340 BC. *1 hr. Am Lustgarten. 030-20-90-55-77. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions, free for children under 16. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt.*

6 ★★★ **Alte Nationalgalerie.** Make a date with the 18th- and 19th-century masters at the Old National Gallery. The backdrop is as magnificent as the works on display, with mosaic floors, frescoed ceilings, and stucco flourishes. A spin through the permanent collection takes in contrasting landscapes by Frenchman Gustave Courbet (1819–1877) and English Romantic John Constable (1776–1837), various Eugène Delacroix (1798–1863) paintings, and brooding Realist works by German artist Adolph Menzel (1815–1905). *1 hr. Kupfergraben. 030-20-90-55-77. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions, free for children under 16. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm. U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse.*

Cultural Freebies

Every Thursday year-round from 6pm to 10pm, savvy visitors can save on their late-night cultural fix. Berlin's major museums and galleries including the Pergamon Museum (bullet **7**), Gemäldegalerie (p 11, bullet **1**), Deutsche Guggenheim (p 80, bullet **4**), and Hamburger Bahnhof (p 12, bullet **6**) fling open their doors, allowing you to enjoy their collections for free. If you can't make it then, invest in the next-best bargain, the three-day *SchauLUST* museum pass costing 19€ (9.50€ concessions) and providing access to 70 museums across the city including most of those mentioned in this book. Purchase the pass online at www.berlin-tourist-information.de or at a Berlin Infostore (p 171).

All Aboard!

From April to October, BWTS (☎ 030-65-88-02-03) operate water taxis for a one-hour chug along the River Spree, past the Pergamon Museum, Bode Museum, and Siegessäule. The nearest embarkation point to Museum Island is Domaquarée on Karl-Liebknecht-Brücke, opposite the Berliner Dom. The tour costs 7€ (3€ for children under 12). For timetable details, see www.berliner-wassertaxi.de.

7 ★★★ kids **Pergamon Museum.** Climb the polished steps of the namesake Pergamon Altar to gaze on graceful Ionic columns and a 113m frieze of Greek gods battling Titans. Other must-sees include the Babylonian Ishtar Gate, embellished with unicorns and dragons, and the 17m-high Market Gate of Miletus dating to 120 AD, once the entrance to the ancient city of Miletus in Western Anatolia (today Aydın province in southwestern Turkey). Excavated in the 19th century, the gate was transported piece by piece to the Pergamon where it has been meticulously reconstructed. Venture upstairs to unravel an Aladdin's cave of Turkish and Spanish carpets. *See p 9.* *1 hr.*

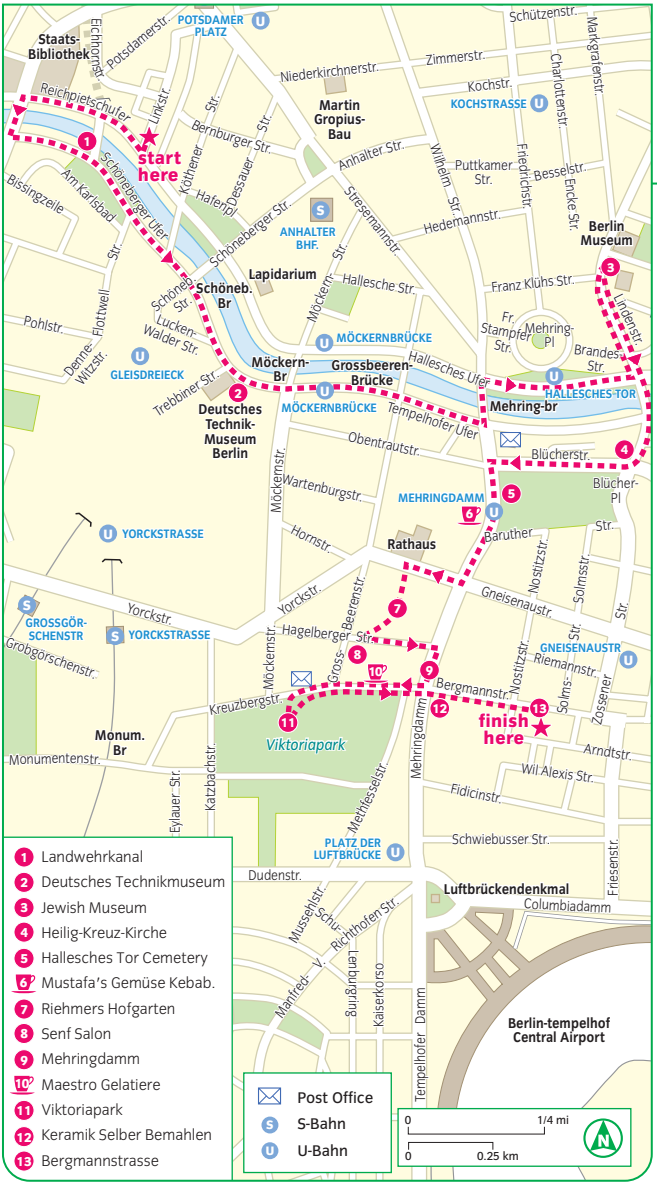
8 **Café Pergamon.** Grab a table on the sunny terrace of this museum café for a quick coffee or snacks such as baked potatoes and goat's cheese *Knödel* (dumplings). ☎ *030-20-90-63-61. $.*

9 **Bode Museum.** This domed museum that juts out into the Spree is worth a visit if only to gawp at the palatial interior of marble pilasters and wrought-iron banisters. Fans of decorative arts are in for a treat, with a collection including Renaissance altarpieces, Prussian ivory, cameos, and alabaster sculptures. Keep an eye out for the tiny 16th-century figurine depicting a lovely goddess—Venus is her name. *1 hr. Bodestrasse 1–3.* ☎ *030-20-90-58-01. Admission 8€ adults, 4€ concessions, free for children under 16. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 10pm.U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse.*

10 ★ **Strandbar Mitte.** Bet you never thought you'd need your flip-flops for a trip to Berlin. Facing the Bode Museum, this beach on the Costa del Spree is perfect for summertime chilling. Join the 20-somethings to recline in a deckchair under the palms, caipirnha in hand, as DJs spin mellow grooves. *Monbijoustrasse 3.* ☎ *030-28-38-55-88. S-Bahn: Oranienburger Strasse.*

The domed Bode Museum overlooks the Spree River.

Kreuzberg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PLATZ DER LUFTBRÜCKE
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Dudenstr.
Luftbrückendenkmal
Columbiadamm
Friesenstr.
Mussehstr.
Richthofen Str.
Manfred-v.-Lenbach-Ring
Kaiserkorso
Tempelhofer Damm
Berlin-tempelhof Central Airport
1 Landwehrkanal
2 Deutsches Technikmuseum
3 Jewish Museum
4 Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche
5 Hallesches Tor Cemetery
6 Mustafa's Gemüse Kebab.
7 Riehmers Hofgarten
8 Senf Salon
9 Mehringdamm
10 Maestro Gelatiere
11 Viktoriapark
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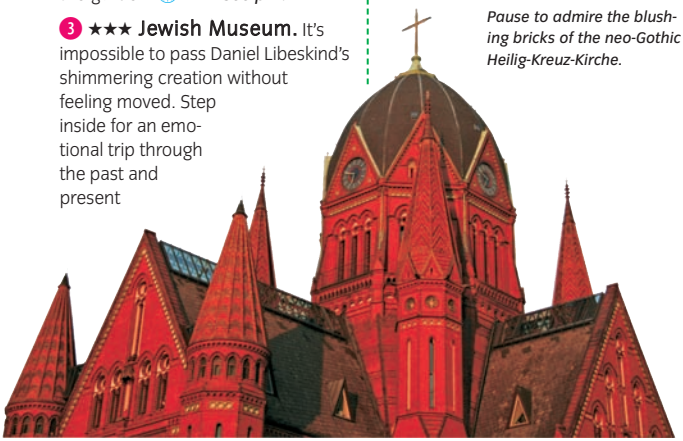
Once considered the economic runt of the litter in former West Berlin, Kreuzberg has been kicking back since that Wall came down with electric nightlife, bohemian cafés, and shabby-chic boutiques. This vibrant neighborhood draws artists, young alternatives, and a mere smattering of tourists, who combine to make it crackle with creativity. Here you can laze by canals, munch a spicy kebab at 3am, and continue partying till the wee hours on Bergmannstrasse. **START: U-Bahn to Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Park.**

1 kids Landwehrkanal. A brisk walk along Landwehrkanal blows away those morning cobwebs. Cutting a 12km path through Berlin, the canal is a green retreat in the heart of the city. Don't expect solitude, though; the shady paths are popular with locals from dog walkers to rollerbladers, cyclists, and even the odd sunbather in warmer months. *30 min. U-Bahn: Mendelssohn-Bartholdy-Park.*

2 ★★ kids Deutsches Technikmuseum. A silver DC-3 plane guides the way to this cavernous technology museum. Technically minded whiz-kids are in their element faced by everything from nostalgic steam trains to vintage Vespas and several marvelous flying contraptions. Keep an eye out for the 19th-century Dutch windmill in the garden. *1 hr. See p 29.*

3 ★★★ Jewish Museum. It's impossible to pass Daniel Libeskind's shimmering creation without feeling moved. Step inside for an emotional trip through the past and present of Jewish Germany; from the chilling corridors of the Axis of Holocaust to the permanent exhibition upstairs celebrating famous sons such as the Romantic composer and conductor Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1778–1862). *1 hr. See p 16.*

4 Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche. Amble south onto Zossenerstrasse to be wowed by the wistful spires, 19m-high cupola, and rosy hue of a little-known evangelical church. Light floods the rose window of this neo-Gothic beauty built between 1884 and 1888 by German architect Johannes Otzen. Keep an eye out for Ismond Rosen's 1996 triptych sculpture ***Christus im Holocaust*** (Christ in the Holocaust). *20 min. Zossener Strasse 65. Mon–Thurs 9am–6pm, Sat 2pm–6pm, Sun 10am–6pm. U-Bahn: Hallesches Tor.*



Pause to admire the blushing bricks of the neo-Gothic Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche.

The wrought iron detail of the gates to Riehmers Hofgarten in Kreuzberg.

5 Hallesches Tor Cemetery. Across the street, an 18th-century cemetery hides a shrine for classical music pilgrims. As you enter, veer left to find the white cross marking the grave of the prominent Romantic composer and conductor Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809–1847). Often mentioned in the same breath as child prodigy Mozart, Mendelssohn had composed 12 string symphonies by the ripe old age of 14. His famous works include the ***String Octet*** (1825) and overture to Shakespeare's ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** (1826). The composer is buried close to his sister Fanny Hensel Mendelssohn, also a gifted composer and pianist. Overgrown with ivy and shaded by trees, the rest of the silent graveyard is scattered with graceful Art Nouveau funerary sculptures. 🕘 ***20 min. Mehringdamm 21. No phone. Summer 8am–8pm; winter 8am–4pm. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.***

6 Mustafa's Gemüse Kebab. If the ubiquitous ***Currywurst*** (curried sausage) isn't up your street, check out Mustafa's vegetarian kebab stand in front of the U-Bahn station. It's a Kreuzberg favorite for its fresh ingredients and pocket-pleasing prices. ***Mehringdamm U-Bahn. $.***

7 ★★ Riehmers Hofgarten. Leave the hubbub of Mehringdamm behind with a stroll through a sublime Art Nouveau courtyard. Tucked behind an engraved iron gate, Riehmers Hofgarten catapults you back to the heyday of Berlin Art Nouveau, with its smooth cobbles, lanterns, and elegant 19th-century townhouses. 🕘 ***15 min. See p 16.***

8 ★ Senf Salon. Forget plain old mustard, this basement store is an

Carnival of Cultures

Berliners find any excuse for a party, and what could be more appropriate in Kreuzberg than a Carnival of Cultures? Every year on the last weekend in May, the district lets its hair down with a free street festival that lures more than a million partygoers. Acrobats, magicians, and dancers bring an explosion of color to the streets. One minute it's soca rhythms, the next you're swaying to merengue or roaming an oriental bazaar. Expect parades, concerts, and club nights a-plenty. For the latest line-up, see www.karneval-berlin.de or call ☎ 030-60-97-70-0.

Turkish Delight

Need to let off some steam? Head over to Sultan Hamam (☎ 030-21-75-33-75; www.sultan-hamam.de) at Bülowstrasse 57 in Kreuzberg for an indulgent Turkish bath, soapy scrub, or olive oil massage. A snippet of the near Orient in Berlin, the marble-tiled steam room, soothing massage treatments, and lounge complete with shisha pipes and Turkish snacks leave you feeling rubbed, scrubbed, and relaxed. It's women-only, except on Sundays and Mondays when it's mixed.

adventure in the unexpected. Fancy mustard with lavender? No, well how about varieties with chilli, banana, fig, beer, or red garlic? Particularly delicious is ***Kumpelsenf*** with licorice—one taste and you're hooked, I swear. The homemade mustards share shelf-space with chutneys and marmalades; try before you buy. 🕘 ***15 min. Hagelberger Strasse 46. ☎ 030-78-89-11-01. Mon–Fri 11am–7pm, Sat 11am–3pm. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.***

9 Mehringdamm. Kreuzberg's main drag is a great place to get a feel for this laid-back neighborhood. If you're seeking world flavors, this street rustles up the whole shebang; walk it to hear the sizzle of sausages and falafel, as Asian spices curl around your nostrils. In this multicultural district, you also find Turkish supermarkets, gay bars, and hip cafés full of people from all walks of life. 🕘 ***30 min. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.***

Finished works at Keramik Selber Bemahlen.

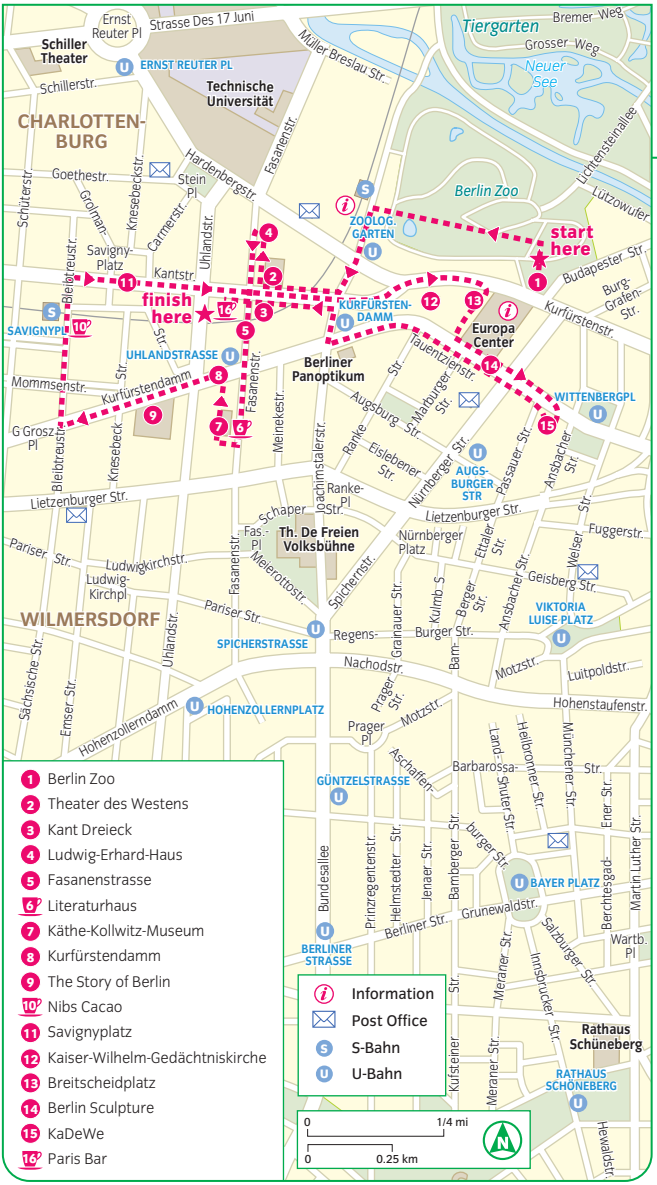
10 kids Maestro Gelatiere. Mouths water and waistlines expand at this Italian ice cream parlour. Pick an unusual flavor such as chestnut or ginger, and then head across to Viktoriapark opposite to slurp. ***Kreuzbergstrasse 13. ☎ 030-78-89-71-75. $.***

11 ★ kids Viktoriapark. Hippies and loved-up couples, Turkish mothers and guitar strumming students—this leafy park is where Kreuzberg locals come when the sun's out. Pack a picnic by the waterfall, or climb up to the 66m viewing point for views across Berlin. Viktoriapark is a fine place to take a breather, walk, or enjoy the flavors of this multicultural neighborhood. 🕘 ***45 min. See p 47.***

12 kids Keramik Selber Bemahlen. Release your inner Van Gogh at this paint-it-yourself ceramics shop. Pick your pottery (from olive dishes to egg cups) and get colorful with brushes and 60 shades. 🕘 ***45 min. Mehringdamm 73/cnr Bergmann-strasse. ☎ 030-28-83-73-55. www.paintyourstyle.de. Daily 12pm–9pm. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.***

13 ★ Bergmannstrasse. If ever proof was needed that Berlin rocks, you can find it on this Kreuzberg bar mile. I usually start off with sushi and DJs in trendy **Sumo** (p 115) before making for underground, über-cool **Bar Nou** (p 128), where the expert mixologists serve a refreshing Shaolin Iced Tea with a kick. ***U-Bahn: Mehringdamm.***

Kurfürstendamm & Around



1. Berlin Zoo
2. Theater des Westens
3. Kant Dreieck
4. Ludwig-Erhard-Haus
5. Fasanenstrasse
6. Literaturhaus
7. Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum
8. Kurfürstendamm
9. The Story of Berlin
10. Nibs Cacao
11. Savignyplatz
12. Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche
13. Breitscheidplatz
14. Berlin Sculpture
15. KaDeWe
16. Paris Bar

This classic shop-and-stroll through well-heeled Charlottenburg begins with Knut encounters at the zoo, before moving to Kantstrasse for a feast of classic and contemporary architecture. Be amazed by Art Nouveau villas and Käthe-Kollwitz's emotionally-charged art on Fasanenstrasse, and then get your boutique and chocolate fix on Savignyplatz before hitting the shops on Kurfürstendamm itself. **START: U-Bahn to Zoologischer Garten.**

1 ★ kids **Berlin Zoo**. If your kids are tired of grown-up stuff, take them to visit Berlin's furry residents at the zoo. Two stone elephants guard the pagoda-style gate, behind which the gardens play home to spacious animal enclosures. Track down superstar polar bear Knut, before finding other loveable critters including penguins, sea lions, zebras, and bubble-blowing hippos. 🕘 *1½ hr. See p 26.*

2 Theater des Westens. Luminaries such as actress Marlene Dietrich and French-American singer Josephine Baker have graced the stage here over the years. The theater's soaring pillars, wreath-bearing cherubs, and lavish stucco epitomise turn-of-the-century grandeur. Pause to admire its façade: a potpourri of Renaissance, Art Nouveau, and Empire styles, built by Bernhard Sehring in 1895.

Tots love to clamber over the stone elephant guarding the gates to Berlin Zoo.

🕘 *10 min. Kantstrasse 12. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. See p 138.*

3 Kant-Dreieck. Walking west along Kantstrasse, Josef Paul Kleihues' 36m tower, graced by a sail-like triangle, forces you to look up. *See p 37.*

4 Ludwig-Erhard-Haus. Across the way, you can't miss British architect Sir Nicholas Grimshaw's modernist edifice, designed in 1994 to house the Chamber of Commerce and Berlin Stock Exchange. Its jointed membrane and organic form gives the appearance of a giant armadillo. 🕘 *10 min. See p 37.*

5 ★★ **Fasanenstrasse.** Stretching from Charlottenburger Tor to Hohenzollerndamm, this elegant street takes its name from the 18th-century ***Fasanerie*** (royal pheasant house) of King Friedrich II. Lined with galleries, smart boutiques, and jewelers, Fasanenstrasse is one of Charlottenburg's plushest avenues. It's also a hive of creativity, drawing local artists and authors to cultural hangouts such as 1950s-style gallery and cocktail bar Galerie Bremer (no. 37). Amble south to Fasanenplatz, a leafy square flanked by typical Art Nouveau townhouses. Slightly further along is the one-time residence of author Heinrich Mann (no. 61), brother of Nobel Laureate Thomas, who in 1905 penned ***Professor Unrat***. His book was the inspiration for ***The Blue Angel***, the film that brought Marlene Dietrich to world renown. 🕘 *1 hr. Fasanenstrasse. U-Bahn: Uhlandstrasse.*

6 **Literaturhaus.** You can almost hear the brains buzz in this literary café, where local authors gather over bottomless coffees. In former lives it was a military hospital, soup kitchen, and brothel. The 19th-century villa now houses a bookshop, hosts readings, and has a leafy garden for a mid-morning break. ***Fasanenstrasse 23. ☎ 030-882-54-14. $.***

7 ★ **Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum.** Contemplate the emotive, brooding works of German painter and sculptor Käthe Kollwitz (1867–1945) in this little gem of a museum. Set in a gorgeous 19th-century villa, the collection comprises graphics, lithographs, woodcuts, and sculptures that reveal recurring themes of poverty, misery, war, and death. ***Brot!*** (1924) and ***The Call of Death*** (1934–35) are particularly touching. ***45 min. Fasanenstrasse 24. ☎ 030-882-52-10. Admission 5€ adults, 2.50€ concessions. Wed–Mon 11am–6pm. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.***

8 ★★ kids **Kurfürstendamm.** Way up on Berlin's must-shop list, Ku'damm is a 3.5km royal bridle path turned shopping strip. Venture west to flex the plastic on designer togs in swish boutiques such as **Budapester Schuhe** (p 94), Gucci, and Bulgari. The eastern stretch, where Ku'damm meets Tauentzienstrasse, is given over to department stores and high-street brands such as Benetton, **Camper** (p 94), and Diesel. It's a great strolling boulevard even if you only want to window-shop. ***45 min. Kurfürstendamm. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.***

9 ★ kids **The Story of Berlin.** A relative newcomer to Ku'damm, this interactive museum chronicles Berlin's history in 23 themed rooms, using photos, film, costumes, and audio effects. You start with the founding of the city in the 13th century and move swiftly to Prussia, the Industrial Revolution, the Third Reich, and Berlin Wall. The highlight is an original nuclear air-raid shelter. It's a fun, touchy-feely way of exploring Berlin's past that kids will love. ***45 min. Kurfürstendamm 207–208. ☎ 030-887-20-100. www.story-of-berlin.de. Admission 9.80€ adults, 8€ concessions, 3.50€ children under 13. Daily 10am–8pm. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.***

10 ★ kids **Nibs Cacao.** Dark, smooth, and divine... the sweet-toothed that make the pilgrimage to Nibs have only one thing on the brain: chocolate. Hot chocolate here ranges from the thick Spanish variety with churros to American-style with marshmallows. Before you leave, stock up on take-away pralines, fondue, and even chocolate cosmetics. ***Bleibtreustrasse 46. ☎ 030-26-37-67-40. $.***

11 **Savignyplatz.** Edging east you hit this square linking Kantstrasse and Ku'damm, framed by hip bars and restaurants that burst into life at night. Its southern side shelters the Else-Ury-Bogen, redbrick railway arches that harbor one-off fashion boutiques, bookstores, and design shops. Head south along Bleibtreustrasse to pick up everything

Delicious chocolate lures the sweet-toothed into Nibs Cacao.

from oriental art and antiques to flamboyant costume jewelry and sassy designer attire. 🕘 ***30 min. S-Bahn: Savigny Platz.***

12 ★★ Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche. Dubbed the *hohler Zahn* (hollow tooth) because of its shattered tower, this sand-hued memorial church stops you dead in your tracks. The 19th-century church was damaged in World War II; its roof blasted to pieces by Allied bombs. Ironically, its fate is precisely what makes it so fascinating. While the western tower is a ruined shell, the restored ceiling mosaics in the Gedenkhalle depict scenes from the life of Emperor Wilhelm I. The neo-Romanesque ruin abuts a contemporary octagonal church, designed by German architect Egon Eiermann in 1961. Its grid-like façade dazzles with electric-blue glass tiles. Don't miss a monumental golden statue of the resurrected Christ suspended above the altar, with his arms outstretched in the form of a cross. 🕘 ***45 min. Breitscheidplatz. ☎ 030-78-89-11-01. Admission free. Daily 9am–7pm. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.***

13 ★★ kids Breitscheidplatz. Sandwiched between Ku'damm and Tauentzienstrasse, this square is dwarfed by the 22-storey Europa Center shopping mall (p 48), crowned by the rotating Mercedes star. Even more striking is the Weltkugelbrunnen fountain that Berliners nickname ***Wasserklops*** (water dumpling), a red granite globe designed by Joachim Schmettau in 1983. Spy the bronze figures—such as a crocodile and a man bearing a watering can—that perch on its steps. 🕘 ***15 min. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm***

14 ★★ Berlin Sculpture. Opposite the church is Brigitte and Martin Matschinsky-Denninghoff's wacky open-air artwork. The sculpture's shiny steel tendrils twist up to

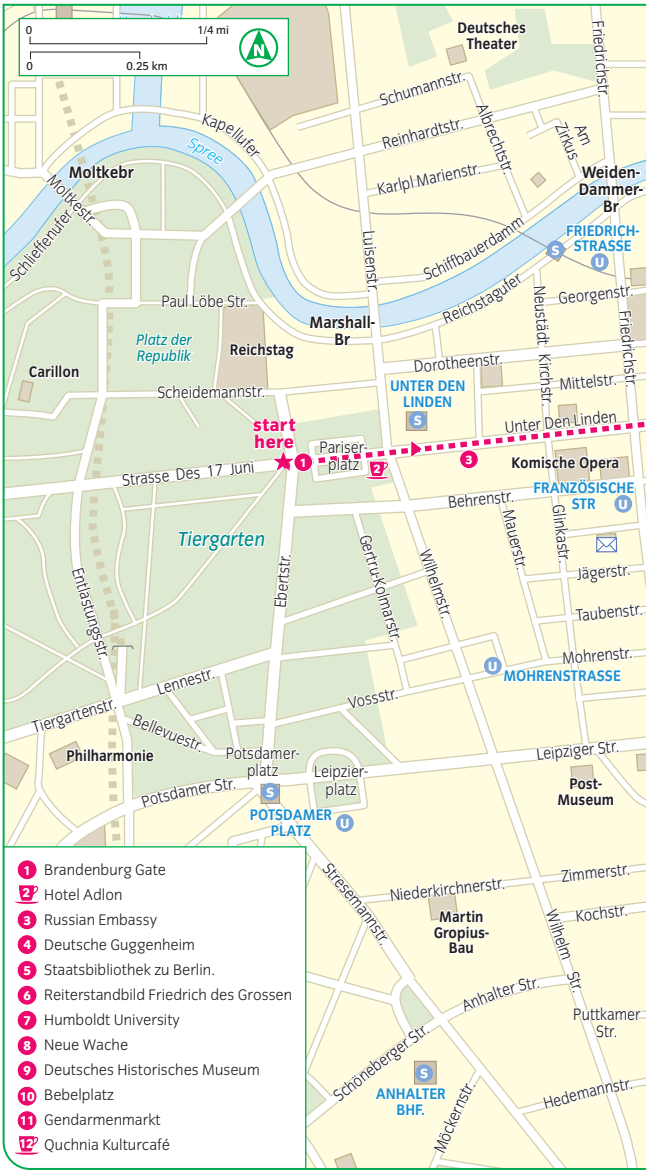
For classic French cuisine on Kantstrasse, book a table at Paris Bar.

intertwine above a patch of greenery on Tauentzienstrasse. Erected to mark Berlin's 750th anniversary in 1987, the broken chain is a powerful symbol of a city divided yet inextricably linked. 🕘 ***15 min. Tauentzienstrasse. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm.***

15 ★★ KaDeWe. Dapper doormen usher you into KaDeWe, a few paces further down Tauentzienstrasse. This grand dame of civilized shopping is ageing (she turned 100 in 2007) yet elegant, and remains one Europe's largest department stores, still famed for theatrical window displays. Seven storeys cover everything from interior design to fragrances, fashion, and lingerie. But it's the 6th floor food hall that gets the most attention; fortify yourself with sushi and champagne at the bar. ***See p 89.***

16 Paris Bar. Oozing French ambience like ripe brie, this bistro is always packed to the rafters with pre-theater drinkers, diners, and socialites. Try ***bouillabaisse*** (Marseillaise fish stew) or garlicky Breton ***escargots***, washed down with a glass of ***vin blanc***. Reservations essential. ***Kantstrasse 152. ☎ 030-313-80-52. $$–$$$.***

Unter den Linden & Around



1. Brandenburg Gate
2. Hotel Adlon
3. Russian Embassy
4. Deutsche Guggenheim
5. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin.
6. Reiterstandbild Friedrich des Grossen
7. Humboldt University
8. Neue Wache
9. Deutsches Historisches Museum
10. Bebelplatz
11. Gendarmenmarkt
12. Quchnia Kulturcafé

ORANIENBURGER STRASSE
WEINMEISTER-STRASSE
Oranienburger Str.
Weinm. Str.
Mernhard Str.
Johannisstr.
Tucholsky Str.
Ziegelstr.
Monbijoustr.
Dircksenstr.
Monbijou Park
Spree
Bode Museum
Neue Prom.
HACKESCHER MARKT
ALEXANDER-PLATZ
Gontardstr.
Burgstr.
Pergamon-Museum
Nationalgalerie
Berliner Dom
MITTE
Clara Zetkin Str.
Rathausstr.
Spandauer Str.
Charlottenstr.
Universit-Atsstr.
Humboldt Universität
Lust-Garten
K. Liebknecht Str.
Marx Engels Forum
Rotes Rathaus
Schloss-Platz
Spreeufer
Mühlendamm
Werderstr.
Breitestr.
Brüderstr.
Französische Str.
Franz Friedrichst Cathedral
Kurstr.
HAUSVOGTEIPL
MÄRK. MUSEUM
finish here
Jerusalemer Str.
Niederwallstr.
Fischerinsel
Insel-Br
Markgrstr.
Kronenstr.
Gertraudenstr.
SPITTELMARKT
N. Rossstr.
STADTMITTE
Seydelstr.
Krausenstr.
Schützenstr.
Kommandanten Str.
Sebastian Str.
Friedrichstr.
Charlottenstr.
Markgratenstr.
Zimmerstr.
Alte Jakobstr.
Stallschreiber Str.
KOCHSTRASSE
Waldeck-Park
Oranienstr.
Besselstr.
Lindenstr.
Arm Berlin Museum
Alte Jakobstr.
Alexandrinen Str.
Berlin Museum
Hollmannstr.
Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn

For the wow-I'm-in-Berlin effect, there's no place like Unter den Linden. With a click of his heels, this grand old duke gives you a spin of the top sights, from the Brandenburg Gate to the Deutsches Historisches Museum, and then lets you rest under the lime trees as accordionists play jaunty melodies and carriages clip-clop past. Unter den Linden holds up a mirror to where the Wall once stood, and reflects the rise and fall of Prussian monarchy. It's still the fairest boulevard of them all. START: **S-Bahn to Unter den Linden**

Gaze up at the Doric columns of the Brandenburg Gate, bathed gold at dusk.

1 ★★★ kids Brandenburg Gate. This triumphal gateway looks its best first thing in the morning or at dusk. Its slender columns and Quadriga's equine pin-ups are pure drama, particularly when snapped from Pariser Platz. *See p 7.*

2 Hotel Adlon. Treat yourself to sticky eclairs and a cup of Earl Grey on the terrace of Berlin's poshest hotel (p 145). This swish pad affording peerless views of the Brandenburg Gate has rolled out the red carpet for Charlie Chaplin, Michael Jackson, and Greta Garbo. ***Unter den Linden 77. ☎ 030-22-61-0. $$$.***

3 Russian Embassy. A few steps away, your eyes fall upon something of a contrast. Its pompous tower and sharp angles are tell-tale signs that Russia's embassy was built in the 1950s, in typical Stalinist wedding-cake style. ***10 min. Unter den Linden 63–65. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

4 ★ Deutsche Guggenheim. On the corner of Friedrichstrasse, the Guggenheim stages three or four major exhibitions of modern or contemporary art each year (there's no permanent collection). In recent years the roll-call has featured Basque sculptor Eduardo Chillida, Canadian photographer Jeff Wall, and abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock. There are free guided tours in German at 6pm daily. ***45 min. Unter den Linden 13–15. ☎ 030-20-20-93-0. www.deutsche-guggenheim-berlin.de. Admission 4€ adults, 3€ concessions, free for children under 12. Daily 11am–8pm, Thurs until 10pm. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

5 Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Next up on the left is a secret too good to keep: the inner courtyard of Berlin's neo-baroque State Library. With its dancing fountain and creeping vines, it's a contrasting haven of calm along bustling Unter den Linden. Join the locals to recline on the benches with a book. The yawning library (closed to the public) houses the world's largest Mozart collection and the handwritten scores of Beethoven's Symphonies Nos. 5 and 9. 🕘 ***20 min. Unter den Linden 8. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

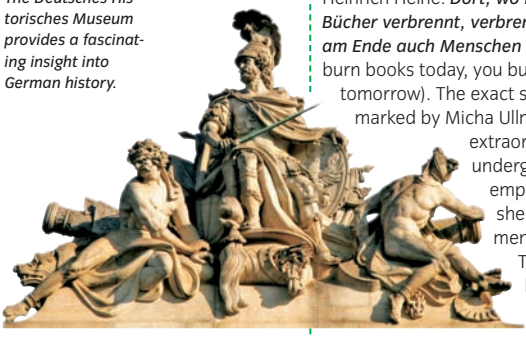
6 Reiterstandbild Friedrich des Grossen. Pinned to the center of the boulevard is German sculptor Christian Daniel Rauch's bombastic statue of Friedrich the Great, or "old Fritz" as Berliners call him, unveiled in 1851 to mark the Prussian king's ascension to the throne. Mounted on a fine horse and looking incredibly dashing, it seems as though he'll spring to life any minute and gallivant off to the palace. The bronze giant perches on a podium, embossed with reliefs depicting scenes from his life. He was a powerful ruler, famed for increasing Prussia's prestige and promoting religious tolerance. ***Unter den Linden. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden***

7 ★ Humboldt University. Berlin's renowned seat of learning is more than just a pretty face; it has baffled the world by winning 29 Nobel prizes and accommodating some of Germany's biggest brains, among them physicist Albert Einstein, Otto von Bismarck (the "Iron Chancellor"), poet Heinrich Heine, and even Marx and Engels (p 52, bullet 2). With a monumental 19th-century façade, it still stands proud today, and boasts an academic reputation to rival the best. If you potter around the daily second-hand book market (times vary) in the courtyard, you might even find Max Planck peering over your shoulder. ***Unter den Linden 6. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

8 ★★ Neue Wache. Light streams through a skylight to illuminate Käthe Kollwitz's ***Mutter mit totem Sohn***, a sculpture of a grieving mother holding her dead son. Nothing expresses better what this stark, neoclassical memorial to human suffering is all about. Dating to 1816, the austere Neue Wache (New Guardhouse) is today dedicated to the victims of war and tyranny, and contains the remains of an unknown soldier and a concentration camp prisoner, surrounded by earth from World War II battlefields and camps. ***Unter den Linden 4. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

9 ★★★ Deutsches Historisches Museum. The baroque Zeughaus (old arsenal) of Brandenburg Elector Frederick III that dominates the corner of Unter den Linden shelters the DHM (Germany History Museum). The collection stretches deep into the vault of history, with everything from Celtic jewelry to Roman codices, Habsburg portraits to World War II propaganda posters.

Berlin's classic strolling boulevard, Unter den Linden.



The Deutsches Historisches Museum provides a fascinating insight into German history.

Fascinating exhibits include the 15th-century ***Behan Globus***, one of the first globes to depict a round earth. On the 2nd floor, seek out Napoleon's bicorn hat and sword, which Prussian soldiers discovered in his carriage after he ran from the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. A stunning architectural newcomer is the adjacent glass spiral construction, designed by the award-winning Chinese-American architect I.M. Pei to host temporary exhibitions. This is not a museum you can hurry. 🕘 ***1½ hr. Unter den Linden 2.*** ☎ ***030-20-30-44-44. www.dhm.de. Admission 5€ adults, free for children under 18. Daily 10am–6pm. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse.***

10 ★★ **Bebelplatz.** It was right here on the cobbles of Bebelplatz that the Nazi book burning took place on May 10, 1933, when 20,000 works from the likes of Austrian psychiatrist Sigmund Freud and German playwright Bertolt Brecht went up in flames. Under the orders of Nazi Propaganda Minister, Joseph Goebbels, right-wing students and SA (Storm Section) officers publicly burned literary works considered Jewish, communist, or degenerate in a bid to "purify" Germany. A small plaque at the center of the square commemorates the prophetic words of Romantic poet Heinrich Heine: ***Dort, wo man Bücher verbrennt, verbrennt man am Ende auch Menschen*** (If you burn books today, you burn people tomorrow). The exact spot is marked by Micha Ullmann's extraordinary underground empty bookshelves monument (p 32). Tucked behind the neoclassical Staatsoper Unter den Linden (the opera house; p 137) is another Prussian creation: the domed Hedwigskathedrale, an 18th-century cathedral inspired by the Pantheon in Rome. ***Unter den Linden. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden.***

11 ★ **Gendarmenmarkt.** The best time to explore this charming square is in the evening, when street lanterns cast a glow across the cobbles. The twin baroque beauties of the Deutscher Dom and Französische Dom flank opposite sides of the square, with Karl Friedrich Schinkel's peristyle Konzerthaus (p 136) and a noble statue of poet and philosopher Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805) squeezed between them. As night falls, the bistros and bars quickly fill with foodies and concert-goers. ***U-Bahn: Französische Strasse.***

12 **Quchnia Kulturcafé.** This café overlooking the Deutscher Dom serves coffee with ***Kultur*** (culture) at its regular events including poetry readings and film screenings. Exposed brick, caramel leather sofas, and an open fire create a sleek setting for finger-food and cocktails. ***Markgrafenstrasse 35.*** ☎ ***030-20-60-92-86. $–$$.*** ●

4 The Best **Shopping**

Shopping Best Bets

Best for **Funky Footwear**
★★ flip*flop Concept Store, *Alte Schönhauser Strasse 41 (p 94)*

Best **Turkish Delights**
★★ Turkish Market, *Maybachufer (p 92)*

Best for **Vinyl and CD Bargains**
★★ Scratch Records, *Zossener Strasse 31 (p 94)*

Best for **Diva Bling**
★★★ Gallery Schrill, *Bleibtreustrasse 48 (p 93)*

Best **Designer Dogwear**
★★★ Koko von Knebel, *Uhlandstrasse 181 (p 92)*

Best for **Fair-Trade Toys**
★★★ Barefoot, *Kreuzbergstrasse 75 (p 94)*

Best **Urban Streetwear**
★★ EASTBERLIN, *Alte Schönhauser Strasse 33–34 (p 90)*

Best for **Whodunnit Fiction**
★★ Miss Marple, *Weimarer Strasse 17 (p 88)*

Kids love the bright, fair-trade toys at Barefoot Berlin.

Best **One-Stop Shop**
★★★ KaDeWe, *Tauentzienstrasse 21–24 (p 89)*

Best for Multifunctional **Bags**
★★★ Tausche, *Raumerstrasse 8 (p 90)*

Best **Heaven Scents**
★★★ Parfum nach Gewicht, *Kantstrasse 106 (p 88)*

Best for **Pottery Painting**
★★ Keramik Selber Bemahlen, *Mehringdamm 73 (p 73)*

Best **Homegrown Fashion**
★★ Thatchers, *Kastanienallee 21 (p 90)*

Best for **Moreish Marzipan**
★★★ Königsberger Marzipan, *Pestalozzistrasse 54a (p 91)*

Best for **Chilli Mustard**
★★ Senf Salon, *Hagelberger Strasse 46 (p 72)*

Best for **Herbs and Spices**
★★ Kräuterhaus Kreuzberg, *Kreuzbergerstrasse 77 (p 91)*

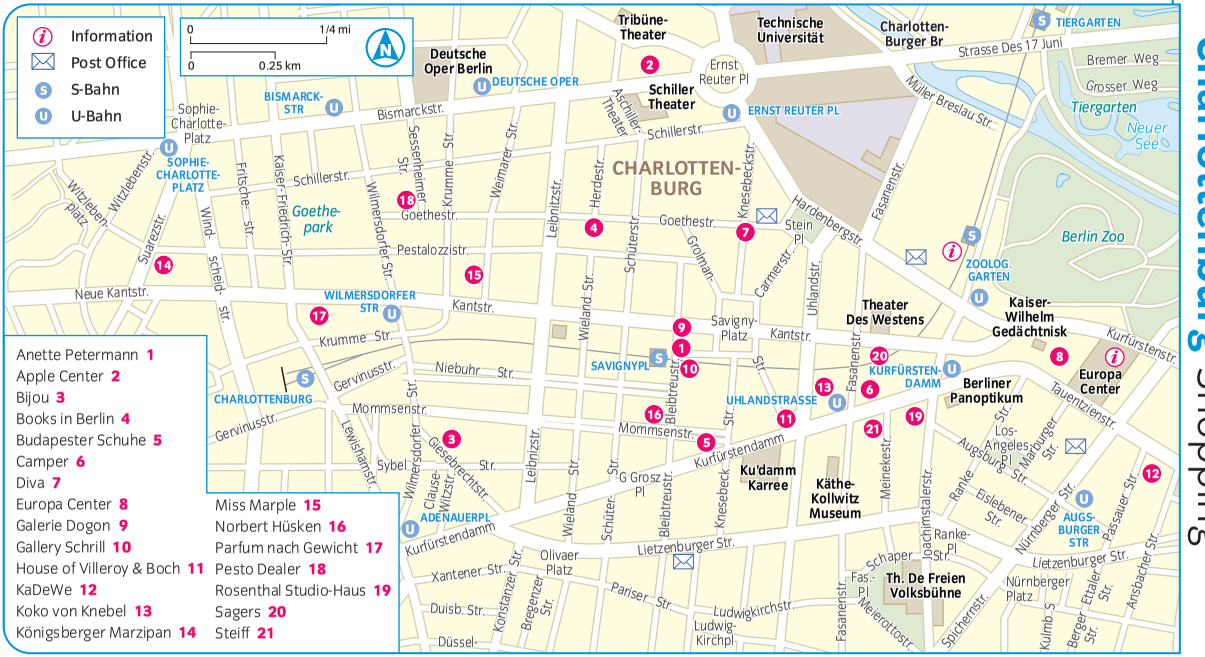
Best for **Cult Kitsch Gifts**
★★ Kwik Shop, *Kastanienallee 44 (p 92)*

Best for **Antiques and Collectables**
★★ Norbert Hüsken, *Mommsenstrasse 5 (p 88)*

Best for **Designer Homewares**
★ House of Villeroy & Boch, *Kurfürstendamm 33 (p 88)*

Best for **Packing a Picnic**
★★ Spazio Feinkost, *Kreuzbergstrasse 15 (p 92)*

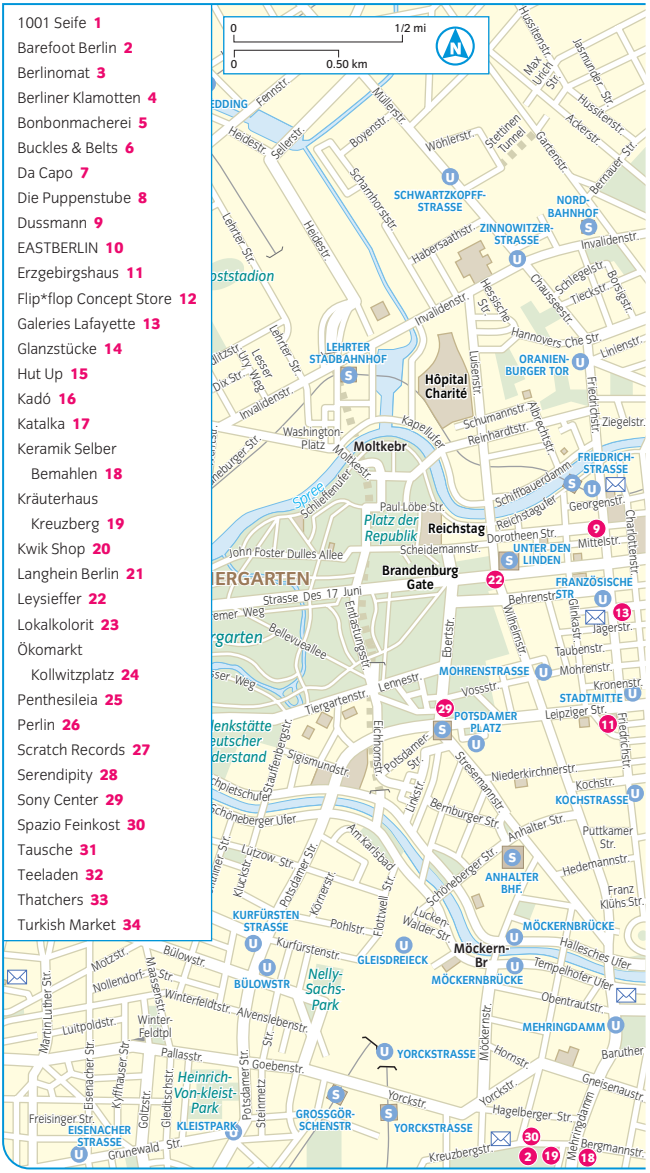
Best for **Gadget Freaks**
★ Apple Center M&M: Trading!, *Bismarckstrasse 5 (p 93)*



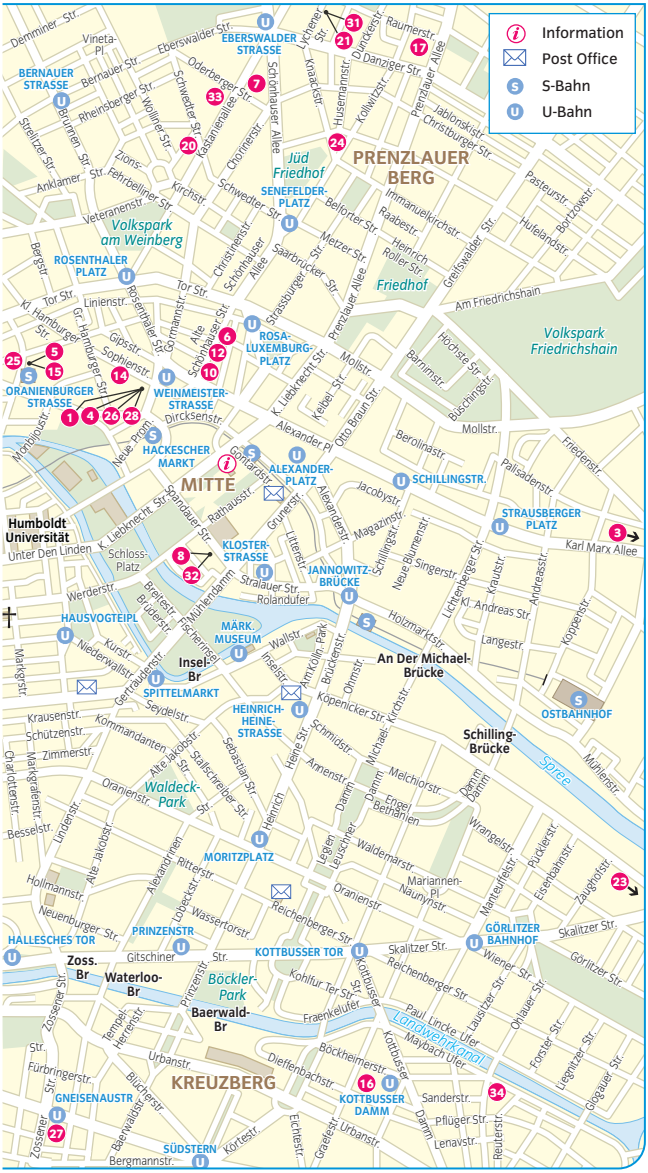
Anette Petermann **1**
Apple Center **2**
Bijou **3**
Books in Berlin **4**
Budapester Schuhe **5**
Camper **6**
Diva **7**
Europa Center **8**
Galerie Dogon **9**
Gallery Schrill **10**
House of Villeroy & Boch **11**
KaDeWe **12**
Koko von Knebel **13**
Königsberger Marzipan **14**
Miss Marple **15**
Norbert Hüsken **16**
Parfum nach Gewicht **17**
Pesto Dealer **18**
Rosenthal Studio-Haus **19**
Sagers **20**
Steiff **21**

Kreuzberg, Mitte, Friedrichshain,

1001 Seife 1
Barefoot Berlin 2
Berlinomat 3
Berliner Klamotten 4
Bonbonmacherei 5
Buckles & Belts 6
Da Capo 7
Die Puppenstube 8
Dussmann 9
EASTBERLIN 10
Erzgebirgshaus 11
Flip*flop Concept Store 12
Galeries Lafayette 13
Glanzstücke 14
Hut Up 15
Kadó 16
Katalka 17
Keramik Selber Bemahlen 18
Kräuterhaus Kreuzberg 19
Kwik Shop 20
Langhein Berlin 21
Leysieffer 22
Lokalkolorit 23
Ökomarkt Kollwitzplatz 24
Penthesileia 25
Perlin 26
Scratch Records 27
Serendipity 28
Sony Center 29
Spazio Feinkost 30
Tausche 31
Teeladen 32
Thatchers 33
Turkish Market 34



& Prenzlauer Berg Shopping


Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn
PRENZLAUER BERG
Jüd Friedhof
Volkspark am Weinberg
Friedhof
Volkspark Friedrichshain
MITTE
KREUZBERG
Humboldt Universität
Unter Den Linden
Schloss-Platz
An Der Michael-Brücke
Schilling-Brücke
Spree
Waldeck-Park
Böckler-Park
Baerwald-Br
Insel-Br
Zoss. Br
Waterloo-Br
Londonzentral.com
Am Friedrichshain
Am Kollin. Park
Am Tierpark
Am Maybach Ufer
Am Ostbahnhof
Am Wriezener Bhf
Am Wriezener Park
Am Zwirnturm
Am Zwirnturm
Am Zwirnturm

Berlin **Shopping A to Z**

Antiques, Art, & Design

★★★ **Berlinomat** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Berlinomat showcases the innovative designs of 150 creative sparks. Ultra-white rooms are the canvas for bold accessories, fashion, and funky home design, including novelties such as letter stamps and sushi rollers. ***Frankfurter Allee 89. ☎ 030-42-08-14-45. www.berlinomat.com. MC, V. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Allee. Map p 86.***

★ **Galerie Dogon** CHARLOTTENBURG Berlin's top spot for intriguing African art. The hand-carved Nigerian masks, bronze amulets, and terracotta figurines range from exquisite to eerie. ***Bleibtreustrasse 50. ☎ 030-312-85-64. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 85.***

★ **Norbert Hüsken** CHARLOTTENBURG This store is crammed with antiques and objets d'art from Biedermeier to Art Deco originals. Snap up an elegant marble bust or glass vase for your mantelpiece. ***Mommsenstrasse 5. ☎ 030-88-62-84-84. MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 85.***

Books

kids **Books in Berlin** CHARLOTTENBURG Nip into this small, friendly bookstore to browse a high-quality selection of new, second-hand, and kids books in English. ***Goethestrasse 69. ☎ 030-313-12-33. V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 85.***

★★ **Miss Marple** CHARLOTTENBURG Strictly for whodunnit fans, this nail-biting bookstore is filled with crime fiction classics and modern thrillers (including in English) to keep you on the edge of your seat on the flight home. ***Weimarer Strasse 17. ☎ 030-36-41-27-24. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Wilmersdorfer Strasse. Map p 85.***

Ceramics & Homewares

★ **House of Villeroy & Boch** CHARLOTTENBURG This temple to home design sells sleek Villeroy & Boch glassware, crockery, and cutlery. ***Kurfürstendamm 33. ☎ 030-88-68-29-70. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm. Map p 85.***

★ **Rosenthal Studio-Haus** CHARLOTTENBURG Stylish porcelain tableware and dinnerware tempt shoppers to loosen their purse strings at this Ku'damm store. Don't miss the Versace-inspired pieces. ***Kurfürstendamm 226. ☎ 030-885-63-40. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm. Map p 85.***

Cosmetics & Fragrances

★★★ **Parfum nach Gewicht** CHARLOTTENBURG Harry Lehmann keeps the romance of perfumery alive with his bold floral scents. Follow your nose here for pure, simple fragrances from patchouli to Provence lavender and tulip. All scents are weighed on brass scales and bottled in flacons (from 10g) that

Harry Lehmann's nostalgic fragrances make perfect gifts.

make ideal gifts. ***Kantstrasse 106. ☎ 030-324-35-32. MC, V. U-Bahn: Wilmersdorfer Strasse. Map p 85.***

★ **1001 Seife** MITTE An Aladdin's cave of soaps and suds, this sweet-smelling store sells plant oil, organic, and cold-pressed soaps. The range includes mare's milk bars for soft skin and pumpkin-seed soap for a glowing complexion. ***Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-28-09-53-54. MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 86.***

Department Stores & Malls

Europa Center CHARLOTTENBURG Shop under a glass roof at this central city mall. It shelters high-street stores such as Bonita and Esprit, plus snack bars, a bakery, and a hair salon. ***Tauentzienstrasse 9–12. ☎ 030-264-97-940. www.europa-center-berlin.de. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 85.***

★ **Galeries Lafayette** MITTE Behind the curvy glass walls of this much-loved Parisian department store you find high-end fashion, fragrances, and a food hall—the spot to slurp oysters and sip champagne. ***Friedrichstrasse 76. ☎ 030-20-94-80. www.lafayette-berlin.de. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 86.***

★★★ **KaDeWe** CHARLOTTENBURG KaDeWe is the granddaddy of Berlin department stores. Lacoste styles and MAC cosmetics, stationery, and Aubade lingerie—it's all here. The 6th-floor food court is a great place to relax over sushi or ***antipasti***. ***Tauentzienstrasse 21–24. ☎ 030-21-21-0. www.kadewe.com. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Wittenbergplatz. Map p 85.***

★ **Sony Center** MITTE A soaring glass roof and dancing fountains create an ultramodern backdrop for varied shopping. Check out high-tech gadgets in the Sony Style Store before taking the escalator down to Pasarelle for bagels and vitamin-rich superjuices. ***Potsdamer Strasse 4. www.sonycenter.de. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 86.***

Find high-street styles at the Europa Center mall.

Fashion

★ **Anette Petermann** CHARLOTTENBURG Entering this boutique is like stepping onto a theatre set. Anette Petermann's designs are deliciously feminine: fuchsia satin dresses, sequin-studded clutch bags, leopard-print coats, and oodles of lace, feathers, and flowers. ***Bleibtreustrasse 49. ☎ 030-323-25-56. MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 85.***

★★ **Berliner Klamotten** MITTE Plug into the Berlin fashion scene with edgy, playful men's and women's styles at this warehouse store. You can unravel the latest visions of 140 local designers with Mazooka prints, Ansoho knitwear, and Hedonist clubwear. ***Hackesche Höfe. http://berlinerklamotten.com. MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 86.***

★ **Diva** CHARLOTTENBURG This boutique lures divas with designer

lingerie and swimwear from brands such as Aubade, Cotton Club, and Anti Flirt. *Knesebeckstrasse 12. ☎ 030-882-13-53. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 85.*

★★ **EASTBERLIN** MITTE The kings of urban cool at this store kit you out with Berlin streetwear basics for men and women; from handprinted hoodies to tees, tops, and shoulder bags. Expect durable, eye-catching designs with bold prints and colors. *Alte Schönhauser Strasse 33–34. ☎ 030-24-72-39-88. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Weinmeisterstrasse. Map p 86.*

★ kids **Hut Up** MITTE For wildly colored creations, Hut Up's distinctive hats, bags, sweaters, dresses, and baby booties are made from raw wool using felting and blocking techniques. *Heckmannhöfe. ☎ 030-28-38-61-05. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse. Map p. 85.*

★ **Langhein Berlin** PRENZLAUER BERG Design-conscious divas trawl this closet for floaty styles and wispy fabrics, from sky-blue chiffon dresses to tutu-style skirts. Its fashions have even graced the Milan catwalk. *Raumerstrasse 8. ☎ 030-442-76-97. MC, V. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 86.*

★ kids **Lokalkolorit** KREUZBERG This Berlin designer's vibrant fashions for men, women, and kids have a retro twist. Many are made with 100% cotton or wool. Bag everything from handprinted hu Ha shirts to hooded dresses and cartoon bags. *Schlesische Strasse 32. ☎ 030-69-51-69-91. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor. Map p 86.*

★★ **Penthesileia** MITTE Anke Runge lures you into her gallery-cum-workshop with a daring collection of handmade leather bags—from bright red spheres to spiky backpacks—complemented by Marion Heilig's micro-fine gold bangles and Joachim Dombrowski's pearl creations. *Tucholskystrasse 31. ☎ 030-282-11-52. www.penthesileia.de. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse. Map p 86.*

★★★ **Tausche** PRENZLAUER BERG Tausche's groovy shoulder bags are waterproof and durable. The fun comes in choosing your flap. With 100 designs—from bottlenose dolphins to the Fernsehturm—your bag can sport a different design every day of the week. *Raumerstrasse 8. ☎ 030-40-30-17-70. www.tauscheberlin.de. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 86.*

★★ **Thatchers** PRENZLAUER BERG Homegrown fashion gurus Ralf Hensellek and Thomas Mrozek design sassy, versatile togs for young urbanites. From slinky clubwear to shift dresses and stoles, their clothing is sexy yet understated. *Kastanienallee 21. ☎ 030-24-62-77-51. www.thatchers.de. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 86.*

Food Specialists

★★ kids **Bonbonmacherei** MITTE The smell of syrup and

Vibrant hats on display at Penthesileia.

The walls of Tausche are lined with colourful bag flaps.

peppermint fill the air at this scrumptious candy store. Hardboiled sweets are made by hand, from sour lime drops to the famous leaf-shaped *Maiblätter* (May leaves) with woodruff. ***Heckmannhöfe. ☎ 030-44-05-52-43. No credit cards. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse. Map p 86.***

★★ kids **Kadó** KREUZBERG Licorice lovers should make for this old-world store, where glass jars brim with yummy organic laces, salty Dutch-style dragees, and drops with ginger, anis, and violet. Made from the real Italian herb, the licorice here is just right: chewy and not too sweet. ***Gräfestrasse 75. ☎ 030-69-04-16-38. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Schönleinstrasse. Map p 86.***

★★★ kids **Königsberger Marzipan** CHARLOTTENBURG This well-hidden, family-run marzipan store has delivered confection perfection since 1947. With its pink striped walls and whiff of almond, you can tell you're in for a treat the moment you enter. Marzipan is made the old-fashioned way and then lovingly hand-wrapped. ***Pestalozzistrasse 54a. ☎ 030-323-82-54. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Wilmersdorfer Strasse. Map p 85.***

★★ **Kräuterhaus Kreuzberg** KREUZBERG Hessian sacks bulge with oregano and peppercorns at this nostalgic produce store. Berit Herzer selects herbs, teas, and spices from green boxes lining the walls, and then weighs them for you on traditional scales. ***Kreuzbergstrasse 77. ☎ 0177-713-43-15. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 86.***

★ kids **Leysieffer** MITTE I can never walk past this confiserie specializing in unusual chocolate, laced with sea-salt, chilli, sloe berry, or Indian spices. Dangerously delicious. ***Unter den Linden 77. ☎ 030-22-67-98-65. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. Map p 86.***

★ **Pesto Dealer** CHARLOTTENBERG Wild garlic and rocket, cashew, and Thai: this little deli reaches new dimensions with its freshly made pestos. ***Goethestrasse 34. ☎ 0178-55-98-51-0. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Wilmersdorfer Strasse. Map p 85.***

★ **Sagers** CHARLOTTENBERG Award-winning, freshly roasted coffee that smells (and tastes) divine. Espresso, fair-trade, and organic

Kräuterhaus Kreuzberg offers high quality herbs, teas and spices.

Berlin's Markets

When the sun's out, Berlin's markets beckon. In Prenzlauer Berg, **Ökomarkt Kollwitzplatz** (Thurs 12pm–7pm, Sat 9am–4pm) has stalls piled high with locally sourced, organic produce from wholemeal breads to cheese and flowers. True bargains are as rare as the yeti, but it's still fun to potter around the **flea market** along Strasse des 17 Juni (Sat and Sun 11am–5pm) for collectables and crafts from fancy hats to gramophones. Kreuzberg's canalside **Turkish Market** along Maybachufer (Tues and Fri 12pm–6:30pm) always tempts me with its garlicky olives, spices, and glossy eggplants. Pause to munch on a kebab between purchases.

coffees are roasted from Arabica beans to achieve an irresistible aroma. ***Lotte-Lenya-Bogen 555. ☎ 0172-625-61-59. No credit cards. S-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 85.***

★★ **Spazio Feinkost** KREUZBERG Planning a picnic in Viktoriapark? Fill your basket with Italian hams, cheeses, crostini, salami, olives, and a bottle of sparkling Prosecco wine at this cheery deli. ***Kreuzbergstrasse 15. ☎ 030-81-82-87-50. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 86.***

★ **Teeladen** MITTE Sniff out the herbal infusions at this hole-in-the-wall tea shop in the Nikolaiviertel. Fine brews sold by the gram range from elderflower to lychee, caramel, and pink grapefruit. ***Propststrasse 3. ☎ 030-242-32-55. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse. Map p 86.***

Gifts

★ **Erzgebirgshaus** MITTE It's forever Christmas at this traditional store selling hand-carved wooden decorations from the Erzgebirge, in Saxony. Pick up nutcrackers, incense-smoking carved figures, and candelabras. ***Friedrichstrasse 194–199. ☎ 030-20-45-09-77. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Stadtmitte. Map p 86.***

★★★ **Koko von Knebel** CHARLOTTENBURG An eccentric doggy world for pampered pooches. Designer Udo Waltz has created a line of canine clothing including gem-encrusted collars (from punk to Playboy bunny), combat outfits, raincoats, and even lingerie. It's barking mad. ***Uhlandstrasse 181. ☎ 0431-99-70-868. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Uhlandstrasse. Map p 85.***

★★ **Kwik Shop** PRENZLAUER BERG Ring the bicycle bell at this quirky kiosk, where the enterprising owners have trawled the world for must-have

Antiques and bric-a-brac at the weekend flea market on Strasse des 17 Juni.

oddities such as Breton mussel baskets, glam Wellington boots, and sausage-dog doorstops. ***Kastanienallee 44. ☎ 030-41-99-71-50. MC, V. U-Bahn: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Map p 86.***

★ kids **Serendipity** MITTE This frilly, powder-pink boutique is like a girl's bedroom. The shelves are lined with cherubs and heart-shaped cushions, flowery fragrances, and silver-plated photo frames for sweethearts. ***Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-24-34-24-14. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 86.***

Jewelry & Accessories

Bijou CHARLOTTENBURG Bijou's unique and affordable jewelry includes pearl, coral, lava, and Venetian Murano glass creations. ***Giesebrechtstrasse 18. ☎ 030-31-01-49-08. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Adenauer Platz. Map p 85.***

Buckles & Belts MITTE This glam store turns buckles and leather belts into an art form. The mind-boggling style range stretches from classic to cow-print. ***Alte Schonhauserstrasse 14. ☎ 030-28-09-30-70. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Map p 86.***

★★★ **Gallery Schrill** CHARLOTTENBURG Twinkle, twinkle... this girly boudoir is marvelously over-the-top. Bling includes tiaras, vintage beads, spangly brooches, and pearls the size of plums. Out back are original works by German artist Elvira Bach. ***Bleibtreustrasse 48. ☎ 030-882-40-48. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 85.***

★ **Glanzstücke** MITTE Bejeweled evening bags, feather boas, and Art Deco dragonfly brooches—this Hackesche Höfe boutique glitters with 20th-century costume jewelry for well-dressed divas. ***Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-208-26-76. AE,***

Vintage costume jewelery sparkles at Gallery Schrill.

MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 86.

Perlin MITTE Beady-eyed shoppers come here for strings of pearls and beads in kaleidoscope shades. Feeling creative? Pick and mix your own. ***Rosenthaler Strasse 40–41. ☎ 0170-489-33-33. MC, V. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 86.***

Music & Gadgets

★ **Apple Center M&M: Trading!** CHARLOTTENBERG Check out this spacey store for the latest Apple gadgets including iPods and MacBooks. ***Bismarckstrasse 5. ☎ 030-31-59-13-20. MC, V. U-Bahn: Ernst-Reuter-Platz. Map p 85.***

Da Capo PRENZLAUER BERG This musty record store has an eclectic mix of vinyl. Flick through rock, reggae grooves, jazz, classical, and GDR labels. The interior is a flashback to the swinging sixties. ***Kastanienallee 96. ☎ 030-448-17-71. No credit cards. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 86.***

Dussmann MITTE Open till midnight, this megastore is packed with CDs and books covering the entire musical spectrum; from jazz to classical, hip-hop, and ***schlager*** (German

pop). *Friedrichstrasse 90.* ☎ *030-20-25-11-11. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 86.*

★★ Scratch Records

KREUZBERG Get lost in music at this Kreuzberg store that stocks a good mix of records and CDs—some rare, some cheap. *Zossener Strasse 31.* ☎ *030-69-81-75-91. MC, V. U-Bahn: Gneisenaustrasse. Map p 86.*

Shoes

Budapester Schuhe CHARLOTTENBURG

Smart-dressed gents should slip into a pair of these high-quality, soft leather shoes; pricey, but timeless and stylish. *Kurfürstendamm 43.* ☎ *030-88-62-42-06. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Uhlandstrasse. Map p 85.*

Fair-trade toys at Barefoot Berlin.

kids Camper CHARLOTTENBURG

Mallorca-based Camper's Ku'damm store features funky footwear for adults and kids, and bright, poster-plastered walls that you can rip to reveal geometric designs. *Kurfürstendamm 26a.* ☎ *021-18-28-23-737. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm. Map p 85.*

★★ flip*flop Concept Store

MITTE This snowy-white store sells footwear designed to avoid a poolside fashion *faux pas*. Find sandals, pumps, and accessories for the sexiest feet on the strand. *Alte Schönhauser Strasse 41.* ☎ *030-20-05-42-95. www.flip-flop.de. MC, V. U-Bahn: Weinmeisterstrasse. Map p 86.*

Toys

★★★ kids Barefoot Berlin

KREUZBERG Squidgy, soft, and bright: tots love Barefoot's fair-trade toys, handwoven from natural materials in Sri Lanka. The rainbow-colored octopuses, touchy-feely finger puppets, reversible armadillos, and kangaroo backpacks are child magnets. *Kreuzbergstrasse 75.* ☎ *030-39-20-70-46. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 86.*

kids Die Puppenstube MITTE

Huddled among the townhouses of Nikolaiviertel, this old-style store is well stocked with porcelain dolls, teddies, and hand-puppets. *Propststrasse 4.* ☎ *030-242-39-67. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse. Map p 86.*

★ kids Katalka PRENZLAUER BERG

Chunky wooden toys, many handmade, fill this gem of a toy store. Beside trikes, building blocks, and ships, are dolls house figurines, cute puppets, and plenty more. *Raumerstrasse 21.* ☎ *030-49-85-33-77. MC, V. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 86.*

★ kids Steiff CHARLOTTENBURG

Steiff's classic teddy is jointed, plush, and comes with an ear tag. His furry friends include polar bears, huskies, and grizzlies. Though not cheap, these cuddly toys are made to last. *Kurfürstendamm 220.* ☎ *030-88-72-19-19. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Kurfürstendamm. Map p 85.*

5 The **Great Outdoors**

Tiergarten

Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn
0
1/4 mi
0
0.25 km
Spree
Hansabr
Hansaufer
Wullenweberstr.
Wardenberg Str.
Flensburger Str.
Lessingstr.
Bartningallee
BELLEVUE
HANSAPLATZ
Akademie Der Künste
HANSA-VIERTAL
Castle Bellevue
Schlosspark Bellevue
Lutherbrücke
Alonaer Str.
Klopstockstr.
Händelallee
Kaiser-fr Gedächtnisk
Spreeweg
TIERGARTEN
Bremer Weg
Grosser Stern
Strasse Des 17 Juni
Tiergarten
Grosser Weg
Neuer See
Bachstr.
Englische Str.
Charlotten-Burger Br
TIERGARTEN
Müller Breslau Str.
Fasanenstr.
Berlin Zoo
Zoo
ZOOLOG. GARTEN
Lichtensteinallee
Hofjäger-Allee
Th. Dehler Str.
Tiergartenstr.
Drakestr.
Rauch-Str.
Stülerstr.
Kölnisstr.
Lützowufer
Cornelius Str.
Budapester Str.
Herkules-Br
V.D.Heydt Str.
Reichpietschufer
Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand
Staufenbergstr.
Sigismundstr.
New National Gallery
Staats-Bibliothek
Kunstgew-Museum
Philharmonie
Kammer-Musikaal
Tiergartenstr.
Lennestr.
Vossstr.
Ebertstr.
Entlastungsstr.
Bellevueallee
Wilhelmstr.
Brandenburg Gate
Scheidemannstr.
UNTER DEN LINDEN
Paul Löbe Str.
Platz der Republik
Reichstag
Marshall-Br
Carillon
Kongresshalle
Grosseser-allee
John Foster Dulles Allee
Schiffbauerdamm
Reinhardtstr.
Luisenstr.
Fürst Bismarck Str.
Moltkebr
Washington-Platz
Moltkestr.
Schleifenufer
J.D. Zelten
Paulstr.
Fleming-Str.
Melanchthon Str.
Spenerstr.
Calvinstr.
Helgolander Ufer
Kirchstr.
C-v-Ossielzky Park
Werftstr.
Luneburger Str.
1 Landwehrkanal
2 Neuer See
3 Cafe am Neuen See
4 Bismarck Memorial
5 English Garden
6 Schloss Bellevue
7 River Spree

Berlin's vast outdoor playground is a ribbon of greenery studded with lakes and canals. You'll find some quiet corners, but most of Tiergarten hums with activity, from picnicking families to joggers, from footballers to rollerblading teenagers. Footpaths weave through these woodlands where Prussian princes once went a-hunting, affording snapshot glimpses of the Siegessäule: a flicker of gold through the treetops. **START: Zoologischer Garten S-Bahn.**

1 ★★ kids Landwehrkanal. Begin your stroll on the grassy banks of the Landwehrkanal (Berlin's main canal). Shadowing the canal, the tree-fringed Gartenufer is a kiddie favorite, skirting the zoo (p 26) to give a sneak preview of its furry critters. Peek through the fence to spy hyenas, storks, and llamas. Cross the bridge to reach the serene rose gardens. *30 min.*

2 ★★ kids Neuer See. A few paces away is the lake, mirroring a copse of oak, ash, and maple. When the sun's out, the best way to appreciate it is by hiring a rowing boat. *45 min. See p 20.*

3 ★★ kids Cafe am Neuen See. Beautifully situated by the lake, this café is a terrific spot to enjoy a cold beer or ice cream, and soak up the views of Tiergarten. *Lichtensteinallee 2. ☎ 030-254-49-30. $–$$.*

4 ★ Bismarck Memorial. Ambling north along Altonaer Strasse, you'll be drawn to this striking memorial to Otto Bismarck, Prime Minister of Prussia (1862–1883) and the first Chancellor of Germany (1871–1890), famous for creating and shaping the modern German state. Immortalized in bronze, he lords it over a globe-bearing statue of Atlas. *20 min.*

5 ★ English Garden. This landscaped English garden, a snippet of rural Hampshire in the heart of Tiergarten, is centered on a sundial. With its flowerbeds and neatly clipped bushes, it's a calm haven where fountains gurgle. If you're here in July or August, don't miss the Konzertsommer, free jazz and world music concerts held on weekends. *30 min. www.konzertsommer.info,*

Hire a boat at Café am Neuen See for a different perspective of Tiergarten.

6 ★ Schloss Bellevue. Edging slightly north brings you to the manicured gardens surrounding the neoclassical Schloss Bellevue. Tucked behind the palace is the Bellevue Ufer promenade. Join the locals to laze on the sun-dappled banks or seek shade under the willows to watch the tour boats pass by. *30 min. See p 59.*

7 ★★ River Spree. From here, I like to trace the meandering Spree east along Helgoländer Ufer. Lined with box shrubs and benches, the promenade provides a wonderful transition from Charlottenburg to Mitte. The lush greenery fades and the landmarks of Berlin's cityscape gradually unfold before me. *45 min.*

Wannsee & Around

115
E51
Onkel-Tom Str.
BREITENBACH-PLATZ
Königin-Luise Str.
Dahlem
DAHLEM-DORF
THIELPLATZ
ONKEL-TOMS HÜtte
OSKAR-HELENE-HEIM
Argentinische Allee
KRUMME LANKE
Clayallee
Unter den Eichen
LICHTFELDER WEST
Berliner Str.
SCHLACHTENSEE
MEXIKOPLATZ
Zehlendorf
SUNDGAUER STRASSE
ZEHLENDORF
Potsdamer Ch.
Clauertstr.
Ludwigsfelder
Machnower Str.
Teltower Damm
Hohe Kieler
Zehlendorfer Damm
Kleinmachnow
Lichterfelder Allee
TELTOW STADT
Teltow
Mahlower Str.
Stahnsdorf
L77
Güterfelder Damm
1 Botanischer Garten
2 Museumsdorf Düppel
3 Strandbad Wannsee
4 Liebermann-Villa at Wannsee
5 Cafe Max
6 Haus der Wannseekonferenz
7 Pfaueninsel

As the German ditty goes, when the sun shines it's time to *Pack die Badehose ein* (pack your bathing trunks) and jump on the train to Wannsee. The city's buzz soon fades, as you recline in a Strandkorb (wicker lounger) and crunch the sand under your feet. But this district offers more than just a beach. Allow a day to explore botanical gardens, painter Max Liebermann's summer villa, and the fantastical palace of King Friedrich Wilhelm II. **START: S-Bahn Botanischer Garten.**

1 ★★★ Botanischer Garten. Berlin's sublime botanical garden is among the world's largest, with 22,000 plant species. Stroll the tropical greenhouses full of orchids, azaleas, and oddities such as the South African Welwitschia (a living fossil), Lithops (flowering stones), and the magnificent Victoria, a giant water lily that flowers every summer. I love the sweet-scented sensory garden, particularly when it's ablaze with croci and daffodils in spring. Another must is the plant geography section to wander past different types of vegetation that grow in the Northern Hemisphere. It nurtures everything from European beech forest to alpine flowers. *1 hr. Königin-Luise-Strasse 6–8. 030-838-50-100. www.botanischer-garten-berlin.de. Admission 5€ adults, 2.50€ children. Daily summer 9am–9pm; winter 9am–4pm. S-Bahn: Botanischer Garten.*

2 ★ kids Museumsdorf Düppel. Tie in your visit with a trip to this reconstructed medieval village complete with thatched cottages, herb gardens, and stalls for oxen and sheep. Kids can also learn about traditional crafts such as pottery and basket weaving. It's officially in German, but staff may speak a little English. *1 hr. Clauertstrasse 11. 030-802-66-71. www.dueppel.de. Admission 2€ adults, 1€ children. Apr–Sep Thurs 3pm–7pm, Sun 10am–5pm. S-Bahn: Zehlendorf.*

3 ★★★ kids Strandbad Wannsee. Just a short trundle from central Berlin, Wannsee is the favorite summertime playground of Berliners seeking sun, sand, and the next best thing to the sea. A 10-minute walk through pine forest from S-Bahn Nikolassee brings you to the beachfront bathing complex, where kids splashing in the water

Greenhouse at the Botanischer Garten.

create a convincing seaside feel. The beach is lined with ***Strandkörbe***, snazzy basket-like reclining beach chairs. Veer left of the jetty and you find a playground, volleyball court, and pedalo rental. To the right lies the FKK (nudist beach), if you dare to bare all. Stay after the crowds leave to watch the sun set. *1 hr. Wannseebadweg 25. 030-803-54-50. Admission 3€ adults, 1.50€ children. May–Aug Mon–Fri 10am–7pm, Sat–Sun 8am–8pm; Sep daily 10am–7pm. S-Bahn: Nikolassee.*

4 ★★ Liebermann-Villa at Wannsee. A meander along the lakefront brings you to the pink summer villa of Max Liebermann (1847–1935), which the Jewish-Berliner artist affectionately dubbed his "castle by the sea". Behind a neoclassical façade, art lovers are treated to an exquisite collection of his Impressionist pastels, prints, and paintings, most inspired by Wannsee and the gardens surrounding the villa. These have been lovingly recreated to their former glory with groomed lawns and red geraniums. *45 min. Colomierstrasse 3. 030-805-85-90-0. www.max-liebermann.de. Admission 6€ adults, 4 € concessions, free for children under 14. Apr–Oct Wed–Mon 10am–6pm; Nov–Mar Wed–Mon 11am–5pm. S-Bahn: Wannsee.*

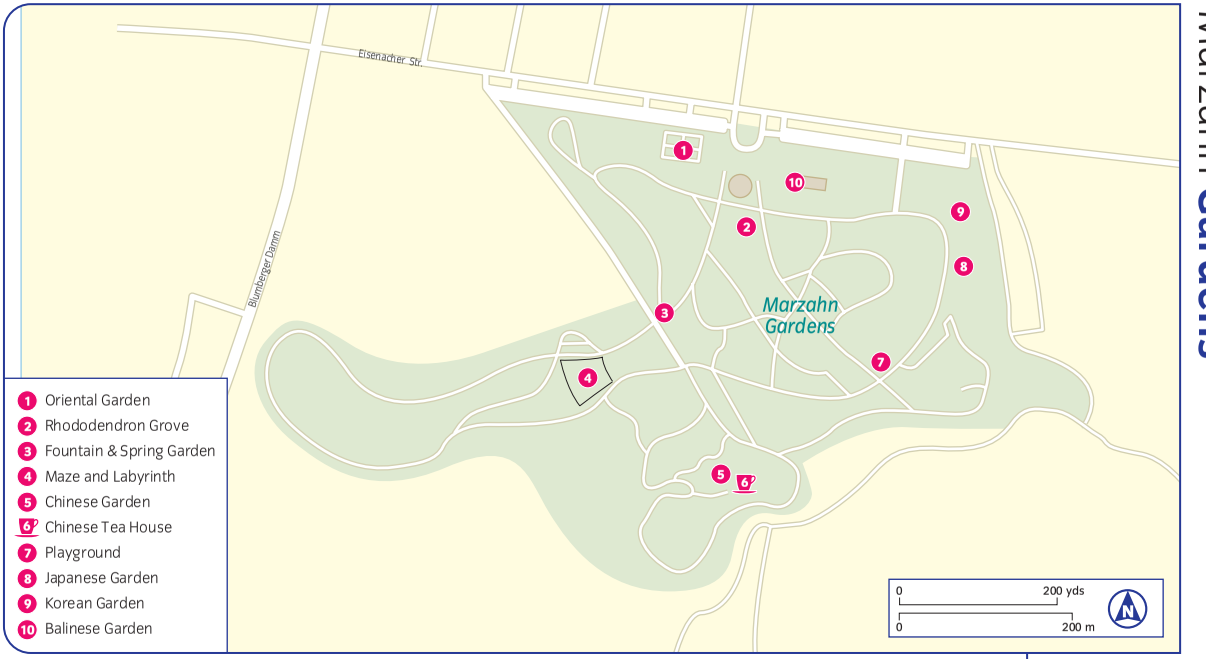
5 Cafe Max. Set in the elegant Liebermann family dining room, the museum café is a fine spot for afternoon coffee or a light snack. *Colomierstrasse 3. 030-80-49-84-33. $.*

6 ★★ Haus der Wannseekonferenz. Further west along the waterfront you reach another mansion, dating to 1914, whose cream stone exterior belies a sobering past. In 1942, Reinhard Heydrich and other senior SS officers convened here for the Wannsee Conference, where they plotted the Final Solution to annihilate Europe's Jews. A simple, moving exhibition commemorates Holocaust victims. *45 min. Am Grossen Wannsee 56–58. 030-30-80-50-01-0. www.ghwk.de. Admission free. Daily 10am–6pm. S-Bahn: Wannsee.*

Relax in a Strandkorb at Strandbad Wannsee.

7 ★★★ Pfaueninsel (Peacock Island). This UNESCO World Heritage site epitomizes Prussian pomp and romantic folly. Designed by King Friedrich Wilhelm II in 1793, the 67-hectare garden is wooded with ancient oaks. First up when you step off the ferry is the whimsical Schloss, a miniature castle sporting mock ruins. It was here that Friedrich used to flock with his beloved Wilhelmine. Amble slightly north to the aviary inhabited by the island's namesake peacocks, and Kavalierhaus, an early 19th-century edifice built by prominent German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel. At the northernmost tip lies the neo-Gothic Meierei, built to resemble a ruined monastery. *Frequent ferry from Nikolskoer Weg 2€ adults, 1 € children. Daily summer 8am–9pm; winter 10am–4pm. S-Bahn: Wannsee.*

Marzahn **Gardens**



In the gritty, socially-deprived suburb of Marzahn-Hellersdorf, these enchanting gardens come as quite a surprise. The model gardens of the world should inspire green-fingered globetrotters to make a pilgrimage. Suddenly the traffic fades and prefabricated housing estates give way to an urban oasis, from Bali's frangipani blooms to China's fiery pagodas. Allow at least half a day to see everything.

START: **Marzahn S-Bahn.**

1 ★ Oriental Garden. Moroccan garden historian Mohammed El Fai'z and Algerian landscape architect Kamel Louafi pooled their knowledge to design this green retreat, nurturing fruit trees, roses, and exotic plants. Enclosed by a 4m wall, the garden embodies the key principles of Islamic garden design: geometry, shade, and water. Note the geometric lawns and trick fountains as you pass through to a rectangular inner courtyard and Moorish-style cloisters. *20 min.*

2 ★ kids Rhododendron Grove. In spring this garden is awash with billowing rhododendrons in a riot of purples and pinks; May is the best time to visit. Kids can hunt the colorful figurines hidden among the blooms. They portray scenes from the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen and the Brothers Grimm. *25 min.*

3 ★ Fountain & Spring Garden. The sound of water trickling from boulders, pebbles, and millstones creates a soothing ambiance in this garden. Follow the zigzagging path past 14 fountains that dance against a verdant backdrop of bamboo and pampas grass. The garden is a calm space that brings together the elements of earth and water. *15 min.*

4 ★★ kids Maze and Labyrinth. Be prepared to get lost—twice!—at Marzahn's bewildering maze and labyrinth duo. This clever juxtaposition shows how the two differ: a labyrinth has only one route to the center whereas a maze presents multiple options. High enough to prevent peeking, the yew hedge maze is modeled on Hampton Court, outside London. Scale the tower by the gingko tree to plot your route. The mosaic labyrinth next door is inspired by that of the Gothic cathedral in Chartres, France; a light gray pebble path leads to its center, which is marked by a circular pool that represents a "heavenly mirror". *40 min.*

5 ★★★ Chinese Garden. The highlight of a trip to Marzahn is Europe's biggest Chinese garden. Pass the stone lions and enter the circular moon gate for flame-red pagodas and pavilions, gushing fountains, and covered bridges with lattice windows that frame the

Detail of the flame-red pagoda in Marzahn's Chinese Garden.

view. It's as close as you can get to Beijing's Summer Palace without setting foot outside Berlin. A mosaic path twists past willows, maples, and bamboo to a lake dotted with lotus flowers. 🕘 *1 hr.*

Jangseung totem poles at Marzahn's Korean Garden.

6 ★★ **Chinese Tea House.** This curve-roofed pagoda is the centerpiece of the Chinese garden. Ladies in brilliant silk ***qipao*** (traditional costumes) bear trays laden with ***baozi*** (sweet dumplings) and pots of aromatic chrysanthemum and jade tea. ***Chinese Garden.*** ☎ *0179-394-55-64. $.*

7 kids **Playground.** Exit China and pass the Confucius statue to reach this playground, where tots can play freely in green surrounds. Tire swings, climbing frames, hanging bridges, and two giant bears keep them amused. 🕘 *15 min*.

8 ★★ **Japanese Garden.** This meticulously landscaped example of Japanese garden design remains faithful to Zen principles. Flowering dogwoods, lavender, orchids, and sloe berries create a stark contrast with stylistic elements such as dry streams and artfully raked gravel in the ***karesansui*** (Japanese rock garden). I like to come in spring, when it's a swathe of pink cherry blossom. 🕘 *30 min*.

9 ★★ **Korean Garden.** *Jangseung* totem poles (said to ward off evil spirits) give you a toothy grin at the entrance to the Korean Garden, designed using natural materials from Seoul and elsewhere in Korea. It's a quiet haven for contemplation, sheltering courtyards and rockeries that emphasise Taoist principles of mystery and discovering nature. The layout is typical of the Korean tradition, with a pavilion perched above a clear stream supposed to highlight the pleasure of watching water. 🕘 *20 min*.

10 ★★ **Balinese Garden.** Positively steamy in winter, this tropical glasshouse showcases native Balinese flora. The garden reflects the Balinese philosophy of harmony through carefully selected plants that are functional as well as attractive, providing food, medicine, or shade. A path leads past fern palms and crotons, delicate slipper, and moon orchids, and the sweet-scented flowers of the frangipani tree. Even on a cold, miserable day, whiffs of incense, a teak ***bale dangin*** pavilion, and ambient music evoke Indonesia. 🕘 *20 min*.

Practical Matters

Marzahn is a short trek from the center. Take the S-Bahn to Marzahn, and then a five-minute ride on bus 195 from the stand opposite the station, which drops you off at the gate. Entry costs 3€ (half price for children). Opening hours are daily from 9am to dusk, but some of the gardens (for instance Korea and Japan) close earlier. For further details, call ☎ 030-546-98-12 or see www.gaerten-der-welt.de.

6 The Best **Dining**

Dining Best Bets

Best **Freshly Made Falafel**
★★ Dada Falafel $ *Linienstrasse 132 (p 33)*

Best **Chinese**
★★★ Le Lamian $$ *Simon-Dach-Strasse 2 (p 113)*

Best **Michelin Star Splurge**
★★★ Margaux $$$$ *Unter den Linden 78 (p 114)*

Best **Ice Cream**
★ Berliner Eismanufaktur $ *Friedrichstrasse 114 (p 111)*

Best **Wine List**
★★ Die Quadriga $$$$$ *Eislebener Strasse 14 (p 111)*

Best **Spicy Sausage**
★★ Curry 36 $ *Mehringdamm 36 (p 16)*

Best for **Chocolate Indulgence**
★ Fassbender & Rausch $$–$$$ *Charlottenstrasse 60 (p 112)*

Best **Alpine Flavors**
★★ Schneeweiss $–$$ *Simplonstrasse 16 (p 115)*

Best for **Bollywood & Balti**
★★ Amrit $$ *Oranienburgerstrasse 45 (p 111)*

Best **Business Lunch**
★ Borchardt $$$ *Kollwitzstrasse 83 (p 111)*

Best **Sushi Heavyweight**
★★ Sumo $–$$ *Bergmannstrasse 89 (p 115)*

Best **Authentic Anatolian**
★ Mey $$ *Bleibtreustrasse 47 (p 114)*

Best **Vegan Café**
★ Hans Wurst $ *Dunkerstrasse 2a (p 112)*

Best **for Travelers on a Budget**
★★ Henne $ *Leuschnerdamm 25 (p 112)*

Look for the sign at Curry 36, home to Berlin's legendary Currywurst (curried sausage).

Best **Habsburg Flashback**
★★ Riehmer's $$–$$$ *Hagelberger-strasse 9 (p 115)*

Best **Organic Burger**
Hot Dog & Burger World $ *Kastanienallee 62 (p 113)*

Best **Pizza in Town**
★ Il Casolare $ *Grimmstrasse 30 (p 113)*

Best **French Bistro**
★★ Le Piaf $$ *Schlosstrasse 60 (p 113)*

Best **Andalusian Taste Trip**
★ Mar y Sol $–$$ *Savignyplatz 5 (p 113)*

Best **Funky Vietnamese**
★★ Mr Hai & Friends $–$$ *Savignyplatz 1 (p 114)*

Best for **Piping Hot Goulash**
★ Repke Suppenkantine $ *Bleibtreustrasse 46 (p 115)*

Best **Stand-up Schwarma**
★ Schlemmerbuffet Zach $ *Torstrasse 125 (p 115)*

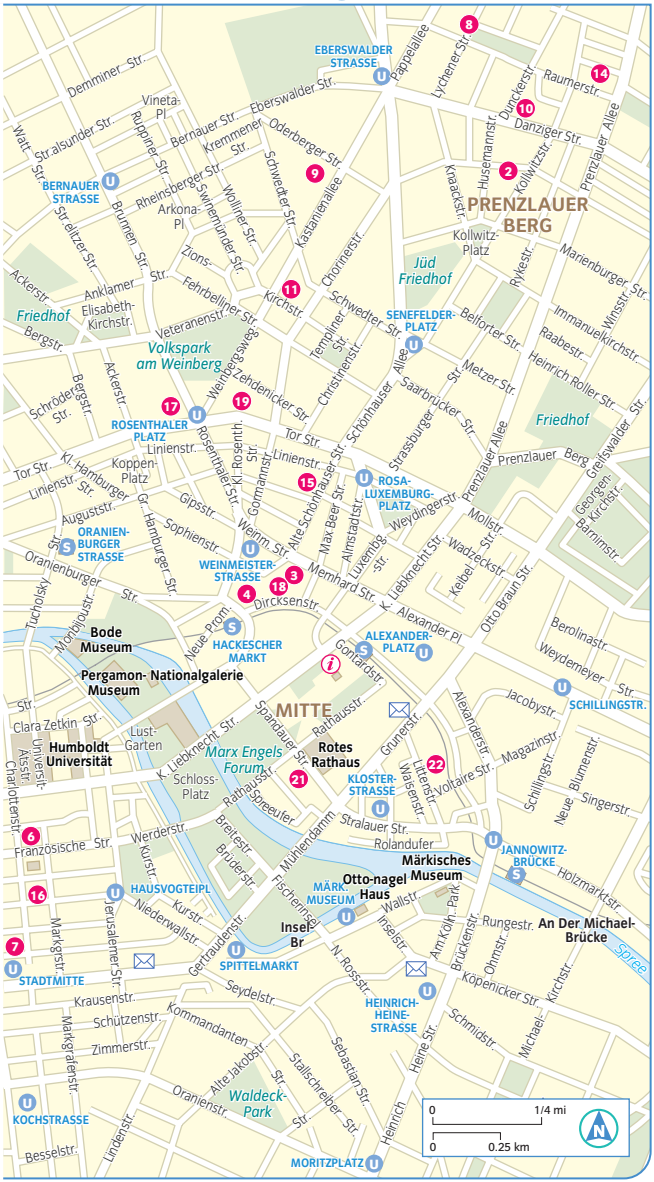
Best **Italian**
★★ Vino e Libri $–$$ *Torstrasse 99 (p 116)*

Charlottenburg Dining

The Best Dining: Mitte &

Amrit 1
Anna Blume 2
Atame 3
Basil 4
Berliner Eismanufaktur 5
Borchardt 6
Fassbender & Rausch 7
Frida Kahlo 8
Godot 9
Hans Wurst 10
Hot Dog & Burger World 11
Kartoffelkeller 12
Margaux 13
Miro 14
Monsieur Vuong 15
Refugium 16
Schlemmerbuffet Zach 17
Tuan's Hütte 18
Vino e Libri 19
Vitrum 20
Zum Nussbaum 21
Zur Letzten Instanz 22

Prenzlauer Berg



Kreuzberg & Friedrichshain
Dining

Berlin Dining **A to Z**

★★ **Amrit** MITTE *INDIAN* This color-charged restaurant blends Bollywood spirit with Bangalore flavors. Rhythms pulsate as waiters breeze past, carrying bronze dishes laden with baltis and basmati. Take pre-dinner cocktails with the elephants on the terrace. ***Oranienburger-strasse 45. ☎ 030-28-88-48-40. Entrees 10€–20€. AE, DC, MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Oranienburgerstrasse. Map p 108.***

★ kids **Anna Blume** PRENZLAUER BERG *DESSERTS* Named after Kurt Schwitters' romantic poem, this bijou café-cum-florist always tempts me with floral specialties such as moist poppy cake and Chinese rose tea. The terrace is a fine spot for people-watching amid the blooms. ***Kollwitzstrasse 83. ☎ 030-614-23-73. Snacks 3.50€–8€. No credit cards. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 108.***

★★ **Anna e Bruno** CHARLOTTENBURG *ITALIAN* Chef Bruno Pellegrini puts a modern spin on Italian cuisine at this avant-garde restaurant. I dress up to join smart diners for signature dishes such as octopus carpaccio with saffron fennel and chocolate lasagne with kumquats. Reservations recommended. ***Sophie-Charlotten-Strasse 101. ☎ 030-325-71-10. Entrees 25€–35€. MC, V. Dinner Tues–Sat. S-Bahn: Westend. Map p 107.***

Atame MITTE *TAPAS* Chillis hang above the bar at this high-ceilinged tapas haunt, where the walls are plastered with posters of Almodóvar films. Savor a glass of Rioja and tasty Spanish morsels such as ***boquerones*** (sardines) and garlicky prawns. ***Dircksenstrasse 40. ☎ 030-28-04-25-60. Tapas 2€–8€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 108.***

Basil MITTE *ITALIAN* The show kitchen at this buzzy trattoria gives a peek of what's to come: freshly made pasta (choose from long, short, or wholewheat) dressed with herb sauces. Mocha leather and exposed brick add a trendy twist to the decor. ***Dircksenstrasse 47. ☎ 030-28-09-73-81. Entrees 7€–10€. AE, MC, V. Lunch and dinner Mon–Sat; dinner Sun. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 108.***

★ kids **Berliner Eismanufaktur** MITTE *ICE CREAM* Nip into this terrific gelateria for homemade ice cream to make ***mamma*** proud. Try scrumptious marzipan-poppy or black cherry flavors. They also serve espresso and panini. ***Friedrichstrasse 114. ☎ 030-21-79-16-38. Ice cream and snacks 1€–4€. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 108.***

★ **Borchardt** MITTE *FRENCH* Impress clients with lunch at this contemporary French restaurant, buzzing with politicians, actors, and media types. High ceilings and marble columns create a lavish setting for specialties such as foie gras and fillet of beef with herb butter. Reservations essential. ***Französische Strasse 47. ☎ 030-81-88-62-62. Entrees 20€–30€. AE, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 108***.

★★ **Die Quadriga** CHARLOTTENBURG *CONTINENTAL* To some stuffy, to others sophisticated—but nobody quibbles with the quality of the cuisine at this Rococo salon. Michelin-starred chef Bobby Bräuer has seen to that, with delicacies such as Gillardeau oysters and a

Detail of Salon Orofino at Die Quadriga.

cavernous wine cellar. ***Eislebener Strasse 14. ☎ 030-21-40-56-51. Menus 70€–105€. AE, MC, V. Lunch and dinner Tues–Fri; dinner Sat and Mon. U-Bahn: Augsburger Strasse. Map p 107.***

★ **Dressler** CHARLOTTENBURG *FRENCH* This Art Deco bistro on Unter den Linden draws locals and tourists alike. Crimson leather banquettes, black-and-white tiles, and film curios evoke the spirit of the 1920s. I love to sit on the pavement terrace when the sun's out for fresh oysters and rich chocolate torte. ***Unter den Linden 39. ☎ 030-204-44-22. Entrees 15€–20€. AE, DC, V, MC. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. Map p 107.***

★ **Fassbender & Rausch** MITTE *CHOCOLATE* Europe's first chocolate restaurant is sinfully sweet and waistline-expanding. The famed chocolatiers have channelled their cocoa know-how into dishes such as Tobago chocolate cannelloni and fresh shrimp pasta in lemon-chocolate butter. ***Charlottenstrasse 60. ☎ 030-20-45-84-43. Entrees 19€–23€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Stadtmitte. Map p 108.***

★ **Frida Kahlo** PRENZLAUER BERG *MEXICAN* As vibrant as Kahlo's paintings. This dazzling blue Mexican ***pulqueria*** rolls out well-prepared staples and is famous for its lazy brunches. ***Lychener Strasse 37. ☎ 030-445-70-16. Entrees 8€–15€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 108.***

Godot PRENZLAUER BERG *BRUNCH* Berlin's hipsters gather on the ivy-draped courtyard of this boho café for a baguette (served with thick-cut vegetables) and an espresso. Candles, brickwork, and a comic-plastered ceiling give it a relaxed, shabby-chic feel. ***Kastanienallee 16–17. ☎ 030-54-71-36-59. Snacks 2€–7€. No credit cards. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 108.***

★ kids **Hans Wurst** PRENZLAUER BERG *VEGAN* This laid-back, child-friendly café serves 100% organic vegan food. Light meals—from tofu curry to pizza—are flavorsome and healthy. Eclectic music and affable staff sweeten the deal. ***Dunkerstrasse 2a. ☎ 030-41-71-78-22. Entrees 5€–7€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner Tues–Sun. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 108.***

★ kids **Hasir** KREUZBERG *TURKISH* This family-run Turkish outpost has been spicing up Kreuzberg since 1971. Aromatic specialties include warm flat bread, lamb shish kebabs, and yummy syrup sweets. ***Adalbertstrasse 10. ☎ 030-614-23-73. Entrees 11.50€–19€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. MC, V. U-Bahn: Kottbusser Tor. Map p 110.***

★★ **Henne** KREUZBERG *GERMAN* There's one prerequisite for visiting Henne: you gotta like chicken, because that's all there is. Crispy corn-fed poultry lands on your plate with lashings of coleslaw or potatoes.

JFK loved this Berlin institution. Reservations essential. ***Leuschnerdamm 25. ☎ 030-614-77-30. Entrees 6€–8€. MC, V. Dinner Tues–Sun. U-Bahn: Moritzplatz. Map p 110.***

kids Hot Dog & Burger World PRENZLAUER BERG *INTERNATIONAL* With food more inspiring than its name, this takeaway keeps it simple: tasty burgers and hotdogs at pocket-pleasing prices. I usually go for a juicy organic burger with chunky fries and homemade relish. ***Kastanienallee 62. ☎ 030-78-08-85-26. Snacks 2€–7€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Senefelderplatz. Map p 108.***

★ kids Il Casolare KREUZBERG *PIZZA* For kid-friendly wood-fired pizzas, it's hard to beat Il Casolare. This canal-side pizzeria is always packed, so reservations are a must. ***Grimmstrasse 30. ☎ 030-69-50-66-10. Entrees 5€–12€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Schönleinstrasse. Map p 110.***

Kartoffelkeller MITTE *GERMAN* Venture down to these cosy vaults to pick from 100 spud-inspired dishes. The potato-packed menu reaches from herby pancakes to Swiss rösti. There's a beer garden in summer. ***Albrechtstrasse 14b. ☎ 030-282-85-48. Entrees 7€–14€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 108.***

★★★ Le Lamian FRIEDRICHSHAIN *CHINESE* A rare Friedrichshain gem, this virginal white restaurant offers a seismic experience in Chinese dining. It's a joy to watch noodle master Qiu Bao skillfully twist and stretch his soup noodles. Other specialties include dumplings with homemade chilli sauce and jellyfish in maotai. ***Simon-Dach-Strasse 2. ☎ 0176-22-73-04-91. Entrees 10€–15€. No credit cards. Dinner Tues–Sun. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 110.***

★★ Le Piaf CHARLOTTENBURG *FRENCH* Claude Trendel's French bistro offers a seasonally inspired menu: from rabbit braised in cider (Feb–Apr) to fresh mussels (Aug–Oct). The vine-draped, rose-clad terrace has won awards as Berlin's prettiest. Even Edith would find it rosy. ***Schlossstrasse 60. ☎ 030-342-20-40. Entrees 13€–20€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner Tues–Sat. U-Bahn: Sophie-Charlotte-Platz. Map p 107.***

Lon Men Noodle House CHARLOTTENBURG *TAIWANESE* The spicy noodle soups, prawn dim sum, and rice noodles here are all great value. If you're feeling adventurous, try a side order of crispy pig's ears. ***Kantstrasse 33. ☎ 030-31-51-96-78. Entrees 5€–7€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★ Mar y Sol CHARLOTTENBURG *SPANISH* If you're a tapas aficionado, your tastebuds will do somersaults at this Andalusian cellar. Delicacies such as thinly sliced ***jamón serrano*** and deep-fried baby squid are served against a cave-like

Chefs cook up a storm in the show kitchen at Le Lamian.

Sample authentic Spanish tapas at Mar y Sol.

backdrop. ***Savignyplatz 5. ☎ 030-313-25-93. Entrees 8€–20€; fixed-price menu 15€. AE, MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★★★ **Margaux** MITTE *FRENCH* Michael Hoffmann puts an avant-garde spin on French classics at this Michelin-starred foodie mecca. Signature dishes such as Breton lobster with candied watermelon and Galician octopus are presented with panache. ***Unter den Linden 78. ☎ 030-22-65-26-11. Entrees 30€–45€; tasting menu 80€. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner Mon–Sat. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. Map p 108.***

★ **Mey** CHARLOTTENBURG *TURKISH* Step inside this vaulted restaurant for authentic Turkish cuisine. The emphasis is on well-balanced Anatolian flavors, from tender marinated lamb to red lentil soup. ***Bleibtreustrasse 47. ☎ 030-88-68-15-85. Entrees 10€–15€. AE, MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★ kids **Miro** PRENZLAUER BERG *KURDISH* Wood floors, crimson cushions, and honey bricks decorate this low-lit Kurdish retreat. Savor minty roasted eggplant or tender lamb meatballs with yogurt. Child-sized portions are available. ***Raumerstrasse 28–29. ☎ 030-44-73-30-13. Entrees 7.50€–15€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Prenzlauer Allee. Map p 108.***

★ **Moon Thai** CHARLOTTENBURG *THAI* Pink light panels add a shot of color to this reasonably priced Thai den. Food is uniformly tasty—from zingy tom yam soup to tempura and organic tofu. ***Kantstrasse 32. ☎ 030-31-80-97-43. Entrees 9€–16.50€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★★ **Monsieur Vuong** MITTE *VIETNAMESE* This hip Vietnamese café has carved an excellent reputation for itself. It's rumored that Bruce Willis pops in occasionally to satisfy his cravings for spicy noodles and Saigon beer. Check the blackboard for daily specials. ***Alte Schönhauser Strasse 46. ☎ 030-30-87-26-43. Entrees 6.50€–8€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Weinmeisterstrasse. Map p 108.***

★★ **Mr Hai & Friends** CHARLOTTENBURG *VIETNAMESE* Zesty lime walls, low-level seating, and a pot-bellied Buddha jazz up this fun Vietnamese restaurant. Watch chefs rustle up everything from tempura to grilled squid in the show kitchen. ***Savignyplatz 1. ☎ 030-37-59-12-00. Entrees 8.50€–14.50€. DC, MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★ **Refugium** MITTE *FUSION* This vaulted restaurant by the Französische Dom serves well presented dishes such as pigeon breast with bolete mushrooms and suckling pig with a black pudding crust. The chestnut-shaded terrace is a big draw. ***Gendarmenmarkt 5. ☎ 030-229-16-61. Entrees 14€–32€. AE,***

MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 108.

★ **Repke Suppenkantine** CHARLOTTENBURG *SOUPS* This popular, arty canteen ladles out soul food to lunchtime crowds, who pile in for broths from spicy goulash to gazpacho, conch chowder to French onion. There's always a vegetarian option. ***Bleibtreustrasse 46. ☎ 030-881-55-11. Soups 3€–5€. No credit cards. Lunch Mon–Sat. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 107.***

★★ **Riehmer's** KREUZBERG *AUSTRIAN* Overlooking Berlin's loveliest courtyard, Riehmer's is classic and elegant—think cream walls, candlelight, and smooth jazz. It's tailor-made for a tête-à-tête over Habsburg favorites such as wild boar goulash and a decent bottle of red. ***Hagelbergerstrasse 9. ☎ 030-78-89-19-80. Entrees 15€–30€; tasting menu 27.50€. AE, MC, V. Dinner Tues–Sun. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 110.***

★ kids **Schlemmerbuffet Zach** MITTE *KEBAB* Schwarma fans are crazy about this kebab joint. Both hands are required to tackle the enormous, well-spiced veal and chicken doners; they're pitta perfection. ***Torstrasse 125. ☎ 030-283-21-53. Entrees 2€–7€. No credit cards. Open 24 hours. U-Bahn: Rosenthaler Platz. Map p 108.***

★★ **Schneeweiss** FRIEDRICHSHAIN *NOUVELLE GERMAN* With a color scheme as pure as snow and glittering icicle lighting, it's as though Narnia's ice queen designed Schneeweiss. Fare is Alpine: polish off porcini mushroom risotto and a crisp apple strudel. ***Simplonstrasse 16. ☎ 030-29-04-97-04. Entrees 8€–14.50€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 110.***

★★ **Sumo** KREUZBERG *SUSHI* This Japanese heavyweight scores with outstanding sushi, maki, and wontons. It sports a Feng Shui inspired interior with pepper-red

Dine on authentic Turkish flavours at Mey.

walls, an aquarium, funky Japanese art, and DJs spinning lounge tunes. *Bergmannstrasse 89. ☎ 030-69-00-49-63. Sushi set 6.50€–17.50€. No credit cards. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Gneisenaustrasse. Map p 110.*

Tuan's Hütte MITTE. *THAI* Blink and you'll miss the entrance to this intimate Thai gem. Staff bring superb Pad Thais and mango lassis to the table with a smile. *Dircksenstrasse 40. ☎ 030-28-36-94-0. Entrees 7€–10€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 108.*

★★ **Vino e Libri** MITTE *ITALIAN* If the thought of digesting poetry while sipping Chianti appeals, seek out this Sardinian restaurant-cum-library. Read by candlelight before feasting on roasted sea bass with stuffed artichokes. Expect friendly service and fresh, uncomplicated flavors. *Torstrasse 99. ☎ 030-44-05-84-71. Entrees 8€–15€. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. U-Bahn: Rosenthaler Platz. Map p 108.*

Splash out on Thomas Kellermann's Michelin-starred cuisine at Vitrum.

★★ **Vitrum** MITTE *MEDITERRANEAN* Dress up to dine on Michelin-starred cuisine beneath Murano chandeliers at this exquisite restaurant inside the Ritz Carlton. Chef Thomas Kellermann's signature dishes include Breton lobster stew with liquid truffle ravioli and pigeon with basil ragout. *Potsdamer Platz 3. ☎ 030-337-77-63-40. Entrees 26€–36€; tasting menu 68€–108€. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner Tue–Sat. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 108.*

★★ **Zum Nussbaum** MITTE *GERMAN* Affording prime views of Nikolaikirche, the terrace here is wonderful when the sun shines. It's shaded by the tavern's namesake: a single nut tree. Squeeze in to feast on hearty Berlin classics such as herrings with salted potatoes or lentil stew. *Am Nussbaum 3. ☎ 030-242-30-95. Entrees 6€–10€. MC, V. Lunch and dinner daily. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse. Map p 108.*

★★★ **Zur Letzten Instanz** MITTE *GERMAN* Berlin's oldest inn (1621) still charms with its cosy wood-paneled interior and witty waiters. I try to grab a chair in Napoleon's favorite spot, beside the tiled oven, and order old-style Berlin favorites such as pickled pork knuckles and blood sausages. *Waisenstrasse 14–16. ☎ 030-242-55-28. Entrees 10€–18€. DC, MC, V. Lunch and dinner Mon–Sat. U-Bahn: Klosterstrasse. Map p 108.*

7 The Best **Nightlife**

Nightlife Best Bets

Best Hot **Chocolate**
★★ Kakao, *Dunckerstrasse 10 (p 124)*

Best for **Tunnel Vision**
★★★ Kunstliche BEATmung, *Simon-Dach-Strasse 20 (p 124)*

Best **Spaced-out Bar**
★★ Astro Bar, *Simon-Dach-Strasse 40 (p 124)*

Best **Bathe and Bop**
★★★ Badeschiff, *Eichenstrasse 4 (p 126)*

Best **Beer Garden**
★★★ Heinz Minki, *Vor dem Schlesischen Tor 3 (p 130)*

Best for **Sports and a Guinness**
★★ Oscar Wilde, *Friedrichstrasse 112a (p 130)*

Best **Caipirinha on the Beach**
★★ Strandgut, *Mühlenstrasse 61 (p 126)*

Best **Moody Blues Bar**
★★ Speiches R&B Kneipe, *Raumerstrasse 39 (p 125)*

Best **Cocktail**
★★★ Bar Nou, *Bergmannstrasse 104 (p 128)*

Open 24 hours a day — Schwarzes Café.

Best **Riverside View**
★★ Watergate, *Falckensteinstrasse 49a (p 128)*

Best **Fetish Club**
★★★ KitKat Club, *Köpenickerstrasse 76 (p 127)*

Best **High-Octane Techno Club**
★★★ Berghain, *Am Wriezener Bahnhof (p 126)*

Best for A Bit of **Monkey Business**
★★ KingKongKlub, *Brunnenstrasse 173 (p 127)*

Best **Kitsch Gay Bar**
★★ Himmelreich, *Simon-Dach-Strasse 36 (p 129)*

Best **Post-Clubbing Breakfast**
★★★ Schwarzes Café, *Kantstrasse 148 (p 129)*

Best **Loft Party**
★★ Dachkammer, *Simon-Dach-Strasse 39 (p 124)*

Best **Edgy Café**
★ Café Zapata im Kunsthaus Tacheles, *Oranienburger Strasse 54 (p 129)*

Best **Lounge for Beautiful People**
★★★ Bangaluu *Invalidenstrasse 30 (p 126)*

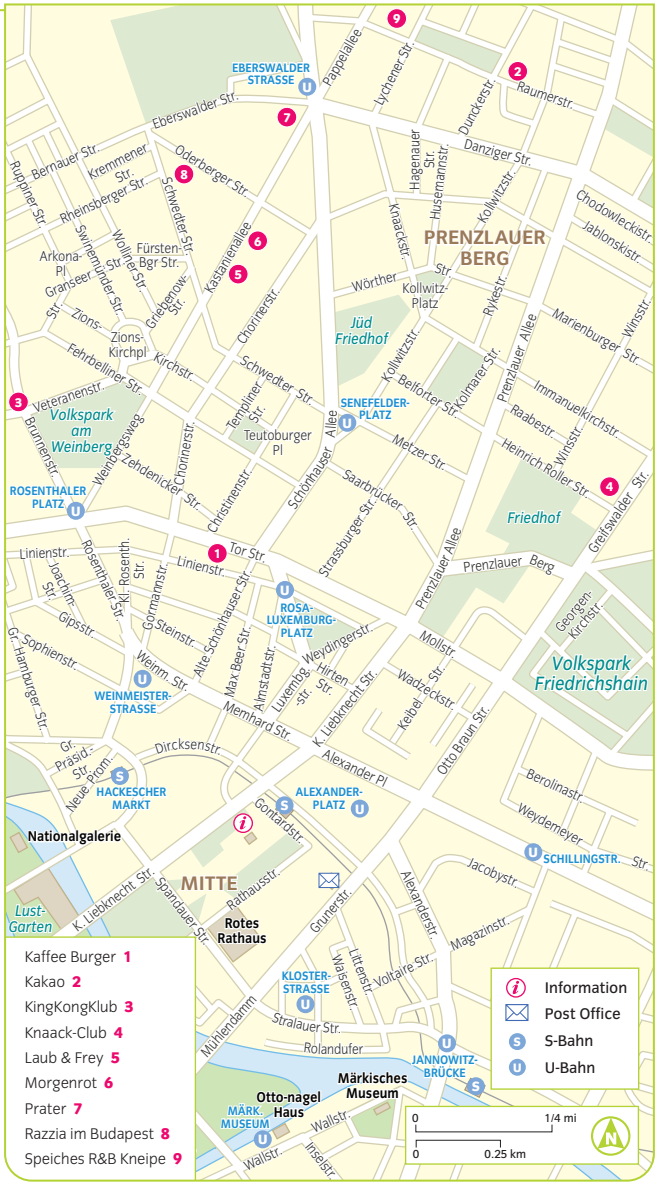
Best **Russian Disco**
★ Kaffee Burger, *Torstrasse 60 (p 127)*

Best **Martini Bar**
★★ Newton, *Charlottenstrasse 57 (p 124)*

Best **for Jazz**
★★ Victoria Bar, *Potsdamer Strasse 102 (p 128)*

Best **for Couples over 30**
★ CSA Bar, *Karl-Marx-Alle 96 (p 128)*

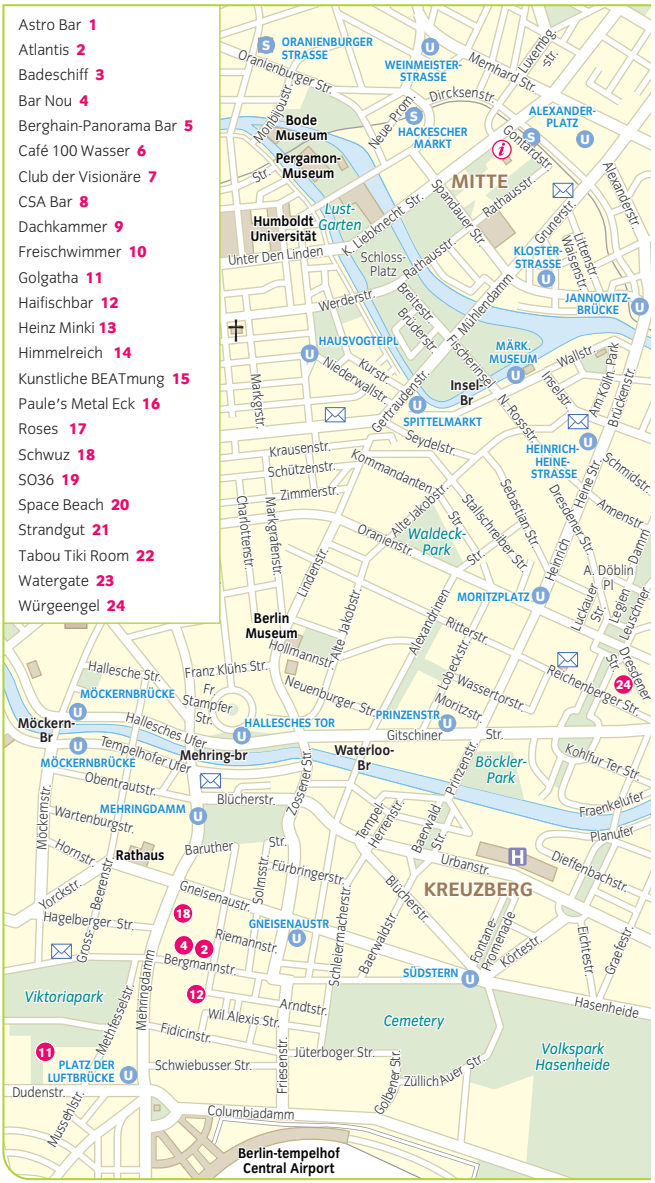
Prenzlauer Berg Nightlife



- Kaffee Burger 1
- Kakao 2
- KingKongKlub 3
- Knaack-Club 4
- Laub & Frey 5
- Morgenrot 6
- Prater 7
- Razzia im Budapest 8
- Speiches R&B Kneipe 9

Kreuzberg & Friedrichshain

- Astro Bar **1**
- Atlantis **2**
- Badeschiff **3**
- Bar Nou **4**
- Berghain-Panorama Bar **5**
- Café 100 Wasser **6**
- Club der Visionäre **7**
- CSA Bar **8**
- Dachkammer **9**
- Freischwimmer **10**
- Golgatha **11**
- Haifischbar **12**
- Heinz Minki **13**
- Himmelreich **14**
- Kunstliche BEATmung **15**
- Paule's Metal Eck **16**
- Roses **17**
- Schwuz **18**
- SO36 **19**
- Space Beach **20**
- Strandgut **21**
- Tabou Tiki Room **22**
- Watergate **23**
- Würgeengel **24**



Volkspark Friedrichshain
Otto Braun Str.
Buschingstr.
Mollstr.
Berolinastr.
Weydemeyer Str.
SCHILLINGSTR.
Jacobystr.
Schillingstr.
Neue Blumenstr.
Singerstr.
Neue Str.
Lichtenberger Str.
Kraustr.
STRAUSBERGER PLATZ
Blumen Str.
Palisadenstr.
Friedenstr.
Richard Sorge Str.
Petersburger Str.
Kochhannstr.
Strassmannstr.
Mühsamstr.
Auerstr.
Weidenweg
WEBERWIESE
Karl Marx Allee
FRANKFURTER TOR
Frankfurter Allee
Marchlewskistr.
Rudersdorfer Str.
Koppenstr.
Andreasstr.
Kl. Andreas Str.
JANNOWITZ-BRÜCKE
Holzmarktstr.
Langestr.
An Der Michael-Brücke
Spree
Stralauer Platz
OSTBAHNHOF
Grünberger Str.
Gubener Str.
Boxhagener Str.
Simon-Dach-Str.
Warschauer Str.
Revaler Str.
FRIEDRICHSHAIN
Schilling-Brücke
Köpenicker Str.
Michaelkirchstr.
Dimitroffstr.
Mühlenstr.
WARSCHAUER STRASSE
Rudolfstr.
Rotherstr.
Lehmbruckstr.
Stralauer Allee
Engelbethanien
Wrangelstr.
Waldemarstr.
Muskauer Str.
Nauryniystr.
Mariannenstr.
Manteuffelstr.
Bucklerstr.
Eisenbahnstr.
Zaughofstr.
SCHLESISCHES TOR
Oranienstr.
GÖRLITZER BAHNHOF
Skalitzer Str.
Schlesische Str.
Spree-Waldpl
Sorauer Str.
Wrangelstr.
Görlitzer Str.
Cuvrystr.
Heckmannufer
KOTTBUSSER TOR
Kottbusser Str.
Reichenberger Str.
Lausitzer Str.
Ohlauer Str.
Paul-Lincke-Ufer
Maybachufer
Berger Str.
Wiener Str.
Puschkinallee
Landwehrkanal
Bürknerstr.
KOTTBUSSER DAMM
Sanderstr.
Pflügerstr.
Liegnitzer Str.
Glogauer Str.
Railtorstr.
Kiefholzstr.
Heidelberger Str.
Boyenstr.
Damm
Lenaustr.
Urbanstr.
Reuterstr.
Überdamm
Nansenstr.
Weserstr.
HERMANNPLATZ
Hermann-Platz
Hobrechtstr.
Sonnenstr.
Weichselstr.
Fuldastr.
Harzer Str.
Karl Marx Str.
Hermannstr.
Wissmannstr.
Weserstr.
Elbestr.
Donaustr.
Information
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S-Bahn
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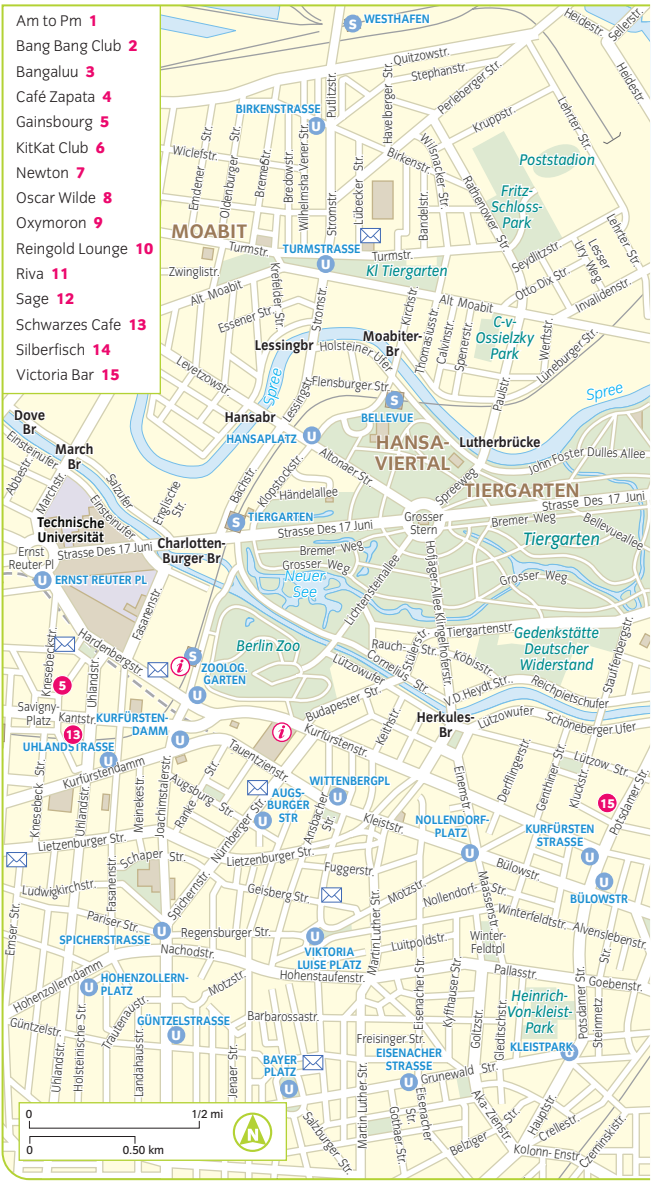
Mitte & Charlottenburg Nightlife

Am to Pm 1
Bang Bang Club 2
Bangaluu 3
Café Zapata 4
Gainsbourg 5
KitKat Club 6
Newton 7
Oscar Wilde 8
Oxymoron 9
Reingold Lounge 10
Riva 11
Sage 12
Schwarzes Cafe 13
Silberfisch 14
Victoria Bar 15



Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn
MITTE
KREUZBERG
Humboldt Universität
Brandenburg Gate
Reichstag
Hôpital Charité
Moltkebr
Friedhof
Volkspark am Weinberg
Viktoriapark
Platz der Republik
Nelly-Sachs-Park
Waldeck-Park
Böckler-Park
SCHWARTZKOPFF-STRASSE
NORD-BAHNHOF
ZINNOWITZER-STRASSE
ROSENTHALER PLATZ
LEHRTER STADTBAHNHOF
ORANIEN-BURGER TOR
ORANIENBURGER STRASSE
ROSA-LUXEMBURG-PLATZ
WEINMEISTER-STRASSE
ALEXANDER-PLATZ
HACKESCHER MARKT
FRIEDRICH-STRASSE
UNTER DEN LINDEN
FRANZÖSISCHE STR
HAUSVOGTEIPL
KLOSTER-STRASSE
MÄRK. MUSEUM
SPITTELMARKT
MOHRENSTRASSE
STADTMITTE
POTSDAMER PLATZ
KOCHSTRASSE
ANHALTER BHF.
MORITZPLATZ
PRINZENSTR
MÖCKERNBRÜCKE
HALLESCHES TOR
GLEISDREIECK
YORCKSTRASSE
MEHRINGDAMM
GNEISENAUSTR
GROSSGÖR-SCHENSTR
PLATZ DER LUFTBRÜCKE
Mehring-br
Zoss. Br
Waterloo-Br
Baerwald-Br
Möckern-Br
Insel-Br

Berlin Nightlife A to Z

Bars & Lounge Bars

★★ Astro Bar FRIEDRICHSHAIN Calling all *Hitchhiker* fans! With its black walls, sci-fi kitsch, and thread-bare sofas, this cosmic bar is student lounge meets Star Wars. Play *Attack from Mars* pinball, ogle the asteroids, and enjoy drinks at prices that are, mercifully, not astronomical. *Simon-Dach-Strasse 40. No phone. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

★★ Dachkammer FRIEDRICHSHAIN Downstairs the attic-style bar, with exposed beams and brick, is ideal for quaffing and conversing with young trendies. Upstairs you enter a 1940s time-warp with crimson velvet sofas, gold-striped walls, smooth jazz, and a tiny balcony. *Simon-Dach-Strasse 39. ☎ 030-296-16-73. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

★★Kakao PRENZLAUER BERG Nights are sweeter in this mellow lounge bar that draws sweet-toothed 20-somethings. I recline on scatter cushions to indulge in chocolate cocktails or orange-infused cocoa with *antipasti di cacao* (fresh truffles and pralines). Even the mint-choc walls look good enough to eat. *Dunckerstrasse 10. ☎ 030-44-03-56-53. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.*

The psychedelic interior of retro-style Künstliche Beatmung.

★★★ Kunstliche BEATmung FRIEDRICHSHAIN This groovy Friedrichshain bar centers on a tunnel sculpted like a windpipe (the name translates as "artificial breathing"). Swirly psychedelic wallpaper, red plastic stools, and retro lighting complete the eye-catching design. Drink mojitos as DJs spin disco and drum-and-bass tunes to a mixed bunch. *Simon-Dach-Strasse 20. ☎ 030-70-22-04-72. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

Laub & Frey PRENZLAUER BERG Sparkly disco balls and low-level seating set the scene. Meet friends for inexpensive drinks on the terrace, or shake your stuff as DJs play electro and funk to a boho crowd. *Kastanienallee 79. ☎ 030-44-03-44-84. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.*

★★ Newton MITTE A place of quiet sophistication, dressed with leather club chairs, polished oak, and Helmut Newton's risqué shots of nude supermodels. *The* spot in Berlin to sip a martini at the crescent-shaped bar. *Charlottenstrasse 57. ☎ 030-20-29-54-21. U-Bahn: Stadtmitte. Map p 122.*

Paule's Metal Eck FRIEDRICHSHAIN Goths, vamps, and metalheads venture to this pitch-black den for thrash metal and dungeon walls decked out with skulls and dragons. Mere mortals beware.... *Krossenerstrasse 15. ☎ 030-29-11-624. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

Reingold Lounge catapults you back to the 1930s.

★★Razzia im Budapest PRENZLAUER BERG Picture grandma's living room, fill it with young and friendly faces, and cheap drinks, and you have Razzia. Squishy sofas and candles add bohemian flair. Daily cocktail specials, with inspired names like ***Obstfliege*** (fruit fly), cost 3.80€. ***Oderberger Strasse 38. ☎ 030-48-62-36-20. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.***

★Reingold Lounge MITTE This smart bar for grown-ups evokes the decadent 1930s with gold light panels and caramel leather stools. I like to hobnob over cocktails, as the music moves from retro to jazz and ambient tunes. ***Novalisstrasse 11. ☎ 030-28-38-76-76. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 122.***

Silberfisch MITTE Although unassuming at street-level, Silberfisch is part of the notorious Oranienburger Strasse bar crawl. Step down to the low-lit mixed-music bar to bop till the wee hours and see punters drinking like fish. One too many and the room starts to swim.... ***Oranienburger Strasse 37. ☎ 030-28-38-73-88. S-Bahn: Oranienburger Strasse. Map p 122.***

★★ Speiches R&B Kneipe PRENZLAUER BERG Local blues hero Jörg Speiche runs this joint. With grizzled characters, guitars on the walls, and creaking floorboards, it oozes musty charm. Play pool, guzzle beer, and catch one of the regular bands playing solid blues. ***Raumerstrasse 39. ☎ 030-444-56-24. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.***

★Tabou Tiki Room KREUZBERG There's no sunshine, but enough fun for everyone at this real-life Club Tropicana. Cane chairs, exotic grooves, and rum-based cocktails (complete with umbrella) recreate a Hawaiian beach, without the sand and sea. ***Maybachufer 39. No phone. U-Bahn: Schönleinstrasse. Map p 120.***

★★ Würgeengel KREUZBERG Scarlet walls and chandeliers shape this smouldering beauty, named after the 1962 movie classic ***The Exterminating Angel***. I join arty locals here to nurse a Pisco sour and nibble tapas such as the famous ***Betrunkene Radieschen*** (drunken radishes). ***Dresdner Strasse 122 ☎ 030-615-55-60. U-Bahn: Moritzplatz. Map p 120.***

Beach & Canalside Bars

★★★**Badeschiff** KREUZBERG This Spree-side hangout is the place to sway in a hammock, daiquiri in hand, and bop to techno on the beach. The cargo ship pool is perfect for an after-party dip. In winter, it morphs into a floating sauna. *Eichenstrasse 4. ☎ 030-533-20-30. www.badeschiff.de. Admission 3€. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof. Map p 120.*

★ **Club der Visionäre** KREUZBERG This relaxed and effortlessly cool canalside shack is packed to the rafters on balmy summer evenings. Young hipsters laze on the deck area to catch some rays, slurp cold beer, and drift away to chillout music. *Am Flutgraben 1. ☎ 030-69-51-89-44. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor. Map p 120.*

★ **Freischwimmer** KREUZBERG It isn't unusual to see locals paddling up to this waterfront bar, opposite Club der Visionäre. When the Berlin Wall stood, there was nothing here but allotments; nowadays bright young things spill out onto the deck for drinks with friends. *Vor dem Schlesischen Tor 2a. ☎ 030-61-07-43-09. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor. Map p 120.*

Chilling on the deck by the water's edge at Club der Visionäre.

★ **Space Beach** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Tucked behind the East Side Gallery, this spacey beach pumps out techno and draws a pre/post-clubbing crowd. Join them to sip mojitos, dance on the sand, and finally collapse into a *Strandkorb* (beach basket). *Mühlenstrasse 63. No phone. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof. Map p 120.*

★★ **Strandgut** FRIEDRICHSHAIN This urban beach behind the Berlin Wall offers music, a ship for sunbathing, and caipirinhas that kick like a mule. Berlin's beautiful people come here to socialize and lounge on white leather sofas under palm trees. *Mühlenstrasse 61. ☎ 030-70-08-55-66. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof. Map p 120.*

Clubs

★★★ **Bangaluu** MITTE Fresh-faced and gorgeous, Bangaluu fuses dining (on pristine white beds) and dancing. Recline to nibble sushi in snowy-white surrounds, summon a masseuse, or bop to DJs spinning house. Thursday's after-work Pop party is a big draw. *Invalidenstrasse 30. ☎ 030-80-96-93-07-7. www.bangaluu.com. Cover 10€. U-Bahn: Zinnowitzer Strasse. Map p 122.*

★ **Bang Bang Club** MITTE Tucked under the railway arches, this little rock club busts at the seams most nights. Regular gigs are rounded out with DJs playing Britpop, indie, and '60s grooves. *Neue Promenade 10. ☎ 030-60-40-53-10. www.bangbang-club.de. Cover 5€–10€. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 122.*

★★★ **Berghain-Panorama Bar** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Probably *the* best club in Berlin, Berghain is a bundle of energy. This industrial warehouse plays host to hardcore clubbers, with world-class DJs pumping out ear-splitting techno. The beats are relentless, the crowd

eclectic, the vibe electric. *Am Wriezener Bahnhof. www.berghain.de. Cover 8€–12€. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof. Map p 120.*

★ **Kaffee Burger** PRENZLAUER BERG A laid-back, arty den where evenings begin with readings, films, or theatre, and move swiftly onto *Russendisko* (Russian disco) parties. The adjacent burger bar is handy for late-night munchies. *Torstrasse 60. ☎ 030-28-04-64-95. www.kaffeeburger.de. No cover. U-Bahn: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Map p 119.*

★★ **KingKongKlub** PRENZLAUER BERG Decked out with kitsch mosaics and skyscraper murals, this is the funkiest monkey in Mitte. Expect slapstick fun, a come-as-you-are vibe, cheap shots, and music from rock'n'roll to French pop and punk. *Brunnenstrasse 173. ☎ 030-285-98-53-87. No cover. U-Bahn: Rosenthaler Platz. Map p 119.*

★★★ **KitKat Club** MITTE To call "Kitty" raunchy barely does it justice. It's an open-minded hive of hedonism; a seething mass of exuberant sexuality. The dress code is fetish (latex, leather), the music techno and trance. Come prepared. *Köpenicker Strasse 76. No phone. www.kitkatklub.de. Cover 10€. U-Bahn: Heinrich-Heine-Strasse. Map p 122.*

★★ **Knaack-Club** PRENZLAUER BERG Every level of this four-floor club has a different vibe, from thumping rock concerts to indie grooves, punk to heavy metal. Upstairs, the Dizzy Lounge is a chill-out zone with karaoke. *Greifswalder Strasse 224. ☎ 030-442-70-60. www.knaack-berlin.de. Cover 5€. U-Bahn: Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz. Map p 119.*

Oxymoron MITTE Chandeliers glitter at this glam Hackesche Höfe nightspot. DJ Hooker One frequently takes to the turntables, playing house, soul, and Balkan beats. *Rosenthaler Strasse 40–41. ☎ 030-28-39-18-86. www.oxymoron-berlin.de. No Cover–11€. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 122.*

★★ **Sage** MITTE Dress to the nines to slip past the doormen at this über-cool club. Groove on one of four dance floors to drum and bass, techno, or indie. The orient-inspired decor is swish and the rooftop pool ideal for chilling.

Chill out by the rooftop pool at Sage.

Köpenicker Strasse 76. ☎ 030-278-98-30. www.sage-club.de. Cover 6€–8€. U-Bahn: Heinrich-Heine-Strasse. Map p 122.

★★ **Watergate** KREUZBERG If you can persuade the surly bouncers to let you in, you'll find pulsating drum and bass anthems, a, glammed-up crowd, and amazing views of the Spree through floor-to-ceiling glass walls. *Falckensteinstrasse 49a. ☎ 030-61-28-03-94. www.water-gate.de. Cover 8€–12€. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor. Map p 120.*

Cocktail Bars

★★★ **Bar Nou** KREUZBERG This fashionable space fizzes with über-cool Kreuzbergers. I sashay down to the bar to browse the head-spinning cocktail list, whose signatures include Shaolin Iced Tea and Vanilla Grapes. *Bergmannstrasse 104. ☎ 030-74-07-30-50. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 120.*

Sip a Shaolin Iced Tea at trendy Bar Nou on Bergmanstrasse.

★ **CSA Bar** FRIEDRICHSHAIN This sleek and self-consciously minimalist lounge bar appeals to a dressy, upmarket crowd with mellow grooves and decadent cocktails. Sink into a leather couch and let the bartender inspire you. *Karl-Marx-Alle 96 ☎ 030-29-04-47-41. U-Bahn: Strausberger Platz. Map p 120.*

★★ **Gainsbourg** CHARLOTTENBURG I can almost visualize Serge sipping a gin fizz at this seductive American bar. The arm-long list of award-winning cocktails stars Brigitte Bardot (brandy, bourbon, and eggnog). *Savignyplatz 5. ☎ 030-313-74-64. U-Bahn: Gneisenaustrasse. Map p 122.*

★ **Haifischbar** KREUZBERG Sharks guard the door to this Kreuzberg haunt. The jazzy bar serves a winning combination of cocktails—try a Hemingway Sour or Fuzzy Navel—and fresh sushi. *Arndtstrasse 25. ☎ 030-691-13-52. U-Bahn: Gneisenaustrasse. Map p 120.*

★ **Riva** MITTE The mixologist knows how to shake 'em at this snazzy bar under the railway arches. A technicolor arched roof and an oval bar create a bizarre optical illusion. Order a Manhattan and mingle with the hip crowd. *Dircksenstrasse 142. ☎ 030-24-72-26-88. S-Bahn: Alexanderplatz. Map p 122.*

★★**Victoria Bar** MITTE This chi-chi lounge has been designed with a razor-sharp eye for detail, from the walnut paneling to olive leather sofas. Stefan Weber expertly mixes cocktails, so you can sip a Singapore Sling as smooth jazz plays. *Potsdamer Strasse 102. ☎ 030-25-75-99-77. U-Bahn: Kurfürstenstrasse. Map p 122.*

Gay & Lesbian Bars/Clubs

★★ Himmelreich FRIEDRICHSHAIN Golden cherubs and glitter balls, gilded mirrors and mulberry walls—everything about Himmelreich is oh-so-beautiful. It screams shabby chic with a boho vibe and Motown rhythms. Drinks are 2-for-1 on Wednesdays. *Simon-Dach-Strasse 36. ☎ 030-707-28-306. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

★ Roses KREUZBERG Enough to give anyone the glitterbug, this bar shines with a kitsch ensemble of plastic flowers, leopard prints, and bling. Join a mixed crowd for pre-clubbing cocktails. *Oranienstrasse 187. ☎ 030-615-65-70. U-Bahn: Kottbusser Tor. Map p 120.*

★★ SO36 KREUZBERG This raucous club presents a varied musical line-up from Asian house to techno and funk. It also stages regular punk concerts and wackier themed events. *Oranienstrasse 190. ☎ 030-61-40-13-06. www.so36.de. Cover 6€–15€. U-Bahn: Kottbusser Tor. Map p 120.*

★ Schwuz KREUZBERG An industrial-style basement club with thrashing sounds and a young (mostly gay) crowd. DJs dominate the decks with everything from funky R&B beats to '70s disco and retro hits at Bump! *Mehringdamm 61. ☎ 030-62-90-88-0. Cover 5€–7€. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 120.*

Late-Night Cafés

★ Am to Pm MITTE This haunt under the railway arches never sleeps. The chilled patio is decked out with lanterns and wicker swings; DJs hit the turntables around 10pm. Blurry-eyed 20-somethings rock up at 4am for cocktails and stay till breakfast. *Am Zwirngraben 2. ☎ 030-24-08-53-01. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 122.*

Atlantis KREUZBERG Unwind with a cold beer on Atlantis' heated terrace, strategically placed for absorbing the action on Bergmannstrasse. Don't miss the quirky flourishes inside, from Betty Boo stamp creations to coffee-bean tables. *Bergmannstrasse 100. ☎ 030-691-92-92. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 120.*

Café 100 Wasser FRIEDRICHSHAIN Colorful, unruly, and fun, this flamboyant Friedrichshain café seizes artistic inspiration from Vienna's much-loved postmodernist, Friedensreich Hundertwasser. The bar is a rainbow riot of mosaics, maroon walls, and gilded mirrors, with a heated terrace. *Simon-Dach-Strasse 39. ☎ 030-29-00-13-56. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 120.*

★★ Café Zapata im Kunsthaus Tacheles MITTE Gritty Zapata forms part of Kunsthaus Tacheles, a dilapidated squat turned alternative arts center. Wacky features from junk art to a fire-breathing dragon keep punters amused. It's a fun spot for pre-club beers. *Oranienburger Strasse 54. ☎ 030-281-61-09. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 122.*

★ Morgenrot PRENZLAUER BERG Alternative and down-at-heel, this collective café embraces folk from all walks of life. Hook up with local artists for vegan cocktails, play chess, or catch one of the ad-hoc concerts. It's usually jam-packed. *Kastanienallee 85. ☎ 030-44-31-78-44. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.*

★★ Schwarzes Café CHARLOTTENBURG This moody 24-hour café is a Kantstrasse institution. Candlelight, muraled walls, and jazzy tunes create a relaxed setting to sip coffee with a pre-and post-clubbing crowd, converse with the chirpy staff or devour a round-the-clock breakfast.

Locals chill on the pavement terrace of Heinz Minki.

Kantstrasse 148. ☎ 030-313-80-38. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 122.

Pubs & Beer Gardens

★ **Golgatha** KREUZBERG
Kreuzbergers make for Viktoriapark on summer evenings. Golgatha has a laid-back crowd, self-service snacks, and boogieing from dusk till dawn. *Dudenstrasse 48–64. ☎ 030-785-24-53. U-Bahn: Platz der Luftbrücke. Map p 120.*

★★★ **Heinz Minki** KREUZBERG
From summertime parties to Sunday brunch, this shaded garden is a perennial favorite, serving great beer and pizza. Natter with the locals or play table football in the 1970s-style living room. *Vor dem Schlesischen Tor 3. ☎ 030-69-53-37-66. U-Bahn: Schlesisches Tor. Map p 120.*

★★ **Oscar Wilde Pub** MITTE
An Irish watering hole with big-screen sports. The pub satisfies my expat cravings with banter, bacon butties, and Guinness on tap. Cheery punters can be found glued to the football or partaking in karaoke and quiz nights. *Friedrichstrasse 112a. ☎ 030-282-81-66. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 122.*

★★★ **Prater** PRENZLAUER BERG
With a brewing tradition dating to 1837, this is the granddaddy of Berlin's beer gardens. Sit under the chestnut trees, enjoy Prater pils, and drink in the atmosphere of a vibrant neighborhood. *Kastanienallee 7–9. ☎ 030-448-56-88. www.pratergarten.de. U-Bahn: Eberswalder Strasse. Map p 119.*

8 The Best **Arts & Entertainment**

Arts & Entertainment Best Bets

Best **Cabaret, Old Chum**
★★★ Bar Jeder Vernunft, *Schaperstrasse 24 (p 135)*

Best **Moody Jazz Club**
★★★ Quasimodo, *Kantstrasse 12a (p 138)*

Best **Literary Cabaret**
★ Die Stachelschweine, *Europa Center (p 135)*

Best **Avant-Garde Opera**
★★ Komische Oper, *Behrenstrasse 55–57 (p 136)*

Best **Orchestral Acoustics**
★★★ Berliner Philharmoniker, *Herbert-Von-Karajan-Strasse 1 (p 136)*

Best for **Rock and Indie Concerts**
★★ Columbiahalle, *Columbiadamm 13–21 (p 137)*

Best for **Drama Classics**
★★★ Deutsches Theater, *Schumannstrasse 13a (p 138)*

Best **Opera House**
★★★ Staatsoper Unter den Linden, *Unter den Linden 7 (p 137)*

Best **Arthouse Cinema**
★ Arsenal, *Potsdamer Strasse 2 (p 137)*

Best for **Classical Concerts**
★ Konzerthaus, *Gendarmenmarkt 2 (p 136)*

Best **Underground Gigs**
Junction Bar, *Gneisenaustrasse 18 (p 137)*

Best for **Glitzy Vaudeville**
★★★ Friedrichstadtpalast, *Friedrichstrasse 107 (p 135)*

Best for **Jazz Jam Sessions**
★★★ A-Trane, *Bleibtreustrasse 1 (p 137)*

Best **Burlesque Show**
★★ Kleine Nachtrevue, *Kurfürstenstrasse 116 (p 135)*

Best for **Football Fans**
★★ Hertha BSC, *Olympiastadion (p 138)*

Best for **Musicals**
Theater des Westens, *Kantstrasse 12 (p 138)*

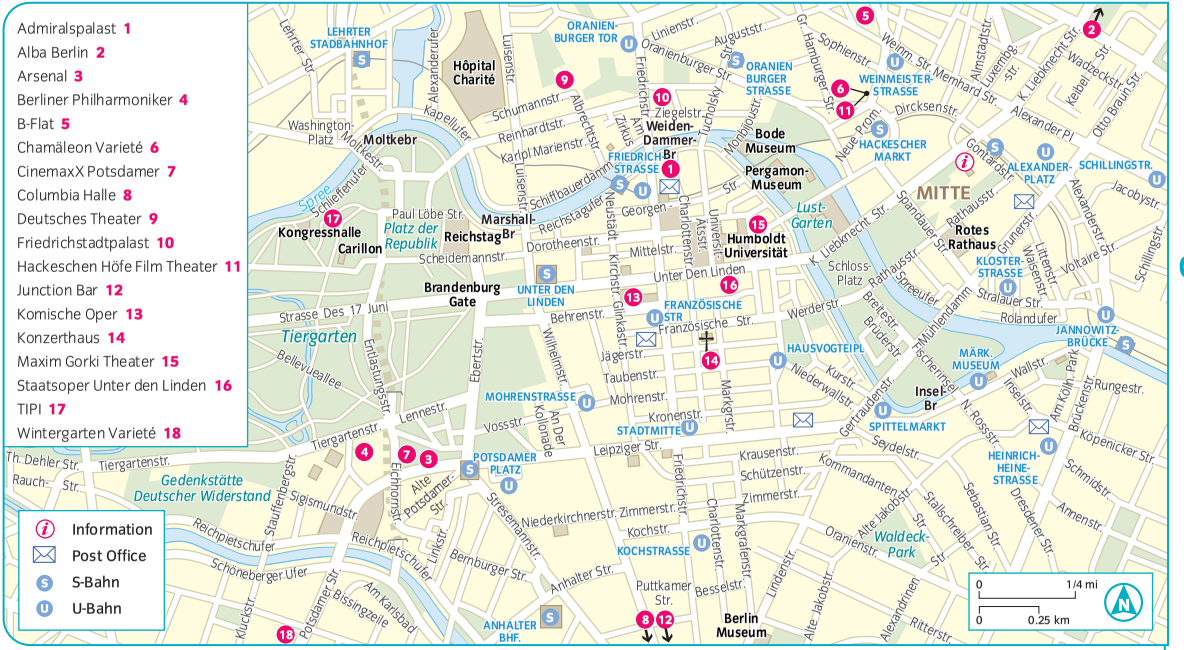
Sally and the Kit Kat Girls, Cabaret, Bar Jeder Vernunft.

Charlottenburg A&E

Tiergarten
Bremer Weg
Grosser Stern
Hofjäger-Allee
Klingelhoferstr.
Tiergartenstr.
Köbisstr.
Stuelerstr.
Th. Dehler Str.
Rauchstr.
Cornelius Str.
Drakestr.
Lützowufer
Lützowplatz
Lützow-Pl
Einemstr.
Derfflingerstr.
Kleiststr.
Urania
NOLLENDORF-PLATZ
Herkules-Br
Schillstr.
Landgrafen Str.
Wich. Mannstr.
Kleiststr.
Burggrafenstr.
Kurfürstenstr.
WITTENBERGPL
Ansbacher Str.
Fuggerstr.
Welser Str.
Geisberg Str.
Passauer Str.
Ettaler Str.
Lietzenburger Str.
Nürnberger Platz
Nürnberger Str.
AUGSBURGER STR
Eisleber Str.
Ranke-Str
Joachimsthalerstr.
Schaperstr.
Fasanenstr.
Meierotto-str.
Ludwigkirchstr.
Th. De Freien Volksbühne
Berliner Panoptikum
Meinekestr.
Käthe-Kollwitz Museum
Ku'damm Karree
Kurfürstendamm
Kreuzbeckstr.
Lietzenburger Str.
Bleibtreustr.
G.Grosz Pl
Mommsenstr.
Wielandstr.
Leibnizstr.
Savigny-Platz
SAVIGNYPL
Grolmanstr.
Carmerstr.
Uhlandstr.
Hardenbergstr.
Steinpl
Fasanenstr.
KURFÜRSTEN-DAMM
UHLANDSTRASSE
Kantstr.
Europa Center
Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedächtnisk
Tauentzienstr.
Augsburgerstr.
Los Angeles Pl
Marburger Str.
Berlin Zoo
ZOOLOG. GARTEN
Budapester Str.
Kantstr.
Nieburstr.
Wilmersdorfer Str.
Sessenheimer Str.
Krumme Str.
Weimarer Str.
Pestalozzistr.
Goethestr.
Richard Wagnerstr.
Bismarckstr.
Schillerstr.
Thrasoltstr.
Gervinusstr.
WILMERSDORFER STR
CHARLOTTENBURG
BISMARCK-STR
DEUTSCHE OPER
Deutsche Oper Berlin
Tribüne-Theater
Otto Suhr Allee
Schiller Theater
Ernst-Reuter-Pl
ERNST REUTER PL
Technische Universität
Charlotten-Burger Br
Einsteinufer
Müller-Breslau-Str.
Fasanenstr.
Schillerstr.
Goethestr.
Grolman-
Schulterstr.
Herderstr.
Wielandstr.
Leibnizstr.
Mommsenstr.
Bleibtreustr.
Kreuzbeckstr.
Savigny-Platz
Kantstr.
Uhlandstr.
Hardenbergstr.
Steinpl
Carmerstr.
Fasanenstr.
Meinekestr.
Kurfürstendamm
Lietzenburger Str.
Ludwigkirchstr.
Fasanenstr.
Meierotto-str.
Schaperstr.
Joachimsthalerstr.
Ranke-Str
Pl
Eisleber Str.
Augsburg Pl
Los Angeles Pl
Marburger Str.
Nürnberger Platz
Lietzenburger Str.
Ettaler Str.
Passauer Str.
Ansbacher Str.
Fuggerstr.
Welser Str.
Geisberg Str.
Derfflingerstr.
Einemstr.
Lützowufer
Lützowplatz
Lützow-Pl
Kleiststr.
Urania
Schillstr.
Landgrafen Str.
Wich. Mannstr.
Kleiststr.
Burggrafenstr.
Kurfürstenstr.
Budapester Str.
Cornelius Str.
Drakestr.
Rauchstr.
Th. Dehler Str.
Stuelerstr.
Köbisstr.
Klingelhoferstr.
Tiergartenstr.
Hofjäger-Allee
Grosser Stern
Bremer Weg
Grosser Weg
Tiergarten
Neuer See
Tiergarten
Luchterhandallee
Bachstr.
Strasse Des 17 Juni
TIERGARTEN
ZOOLOG. GARTEN
Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedächtnisk
Europa Center
Berlin Zoo
Tauentzienstr.
Augsburgerstr.
Los Angeles Pl
Marburger Str.
Berliner Panoptikum
Th. De Freien Volksbühne
Käthe-Kollwitz Museum
Ku'damm Karree
KURFÜRSTEN-DAMM
UHLANDSTRASSE
SAVIGNYPL
Savigny-Platz
Grolmanstr

Mitte & Tiergarten A&E

- Admiralspalast 1
- Alba Berlin 2
- Arsenal 3
- Berliner Philharmoniker 4
- B-Flat 5
- Chamäleon Varieté 6
- CinemaxX Potsdamer 7
- Columbia Halle 8
- Deutsches Theater 9
- Friedrichstadtpalast 10
- Hackeschen Höfe Film Theater 11
- Junction Bar 12
- Komische Oper 13
- Konzerthaus 14
- Maxim Gorki Theater 15
- Staatsoper Unter den Linden 16
- TIPI 17
- Wintergarten Varieté 18



Arts & Entertainment **A to Z**

Catch a glittering revue performance at Friedrichstadtpalast.

Cabaret & Vaudeville

★★★ Bar Jeder Vernunft CHARLOTTENBURG Home of the legendary Mirror Tent that twinkled in Oscar-winning ***Cabaret***, Bar Jeder Vernunft evokes the Roaring Twenties with a spritz of glamor. Its first-rate comedy and chanson performances whisk you back to Sally Bowles at the Kit Kat Club. ***Schaperstrasse 24. ☎ 030-883-15-82. Tickets 19€–61€. www.bar-jeder-vernunft.de. U-Bahn: Spichernstrasse. Map p 133.***

Chamäleon Varieté MITTE For circus-style slapstick, head to this informal theater in the Hackesche Höfe. From clowns in baggy trousers to jugglers and aerialists, the eclectic variety acts keep the youngish crowd in fits of giggles. ***Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-282-71-18. Tickets 29€–39€. www.chamaeleon-variete.de. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 134.***

★ Die Stachelschweine CHARLOTTENBURG A staple in Berlin's entertainment diet, "the porcupines" stages excellent literary cabaret (in German) where performances prickle with sharp political satire. ***Europa Center. ☎ 030-261-47-95. Tickets 11.50€–26€. www.stachelschweine-berlin.de. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 133.***

★★★ Friedrichstadtpalast MITTE Come hear the music play at the ritzy giant of the famous 1920s cabaret mile, Friedrichstrasse. Europe's largest revue theater presents an exuberant feast of sequin-studded costumes, vaudeville performances, and leggy showgirls. ***Friedrichstrasse 107. ☎ 030-23-26-23-26. Tickets 17€–61€. www.friedrichstadtpalast.de S-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse. Map p 134.***

★★ Kleine Nachtrevue CHARLOTTENBURG A smouldering starlet with kohl eyes crooning Marlene Dietrich's ***Falling in Love Again*** in this little theater catapults you right back to those hazy, crazy days of 1920s Berlin. It's feted for burlesque performances that are risqué but not lewd, creating a successful blend of erotica and nostalgia with satirical undertones. ***Kurfürstenstrasse 116. ☎ 030-218-89-50. Tickets 15€–25€. www.kleine-nachtrevue.de. U-Bahn: Wittenbergplatz. Map p 133.***

TIPI TIERGARTEN This meringue-like marquee, between Haus der Kulturen der Welt and the Bundeskanzleramt, stages chanson,

Tickets & Listings

Pick up a copy of the biweekly magazine **Tip** (www.tip-berlin.de; in German), 2.90€ at newsstands, for up-to-date concert, theater, and event listings. Most venues let you pre-book tickets online or by phone. Ticket agencies are another option, but be prepared to pay a 10–15% booking fee. The online booking service **Hekticket** (☎ 030-230-99-30; www.hekticket.de) accepts all major credit cards and posts tickets worldwide; half-price tickets are often available for same-day performances from ticket booths at Hardenbergstrasse 29 (opposite Zoologischer Garten station) and Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 12 (Alexanderplatz S-Bahn station).

cabaret, variety theater, dance, and musical comedy. Acts from ukulele orchestras to Scottish tenors entertain an international crowd. ***Grosse Querallee. ☎ 030-39-06-65-0. Tickets 15€–50€. www.tipi-das-zelt.de. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. Map p 134.***

★★ **Wintergarten Varieté** MITTE Past the liveried doormen and scarlet-gold foyer is one of Berlin's most celebrated variety theaters. The glittering vaudeville shows welcome a fanfare of jugglers and trapeze artists, contortionists, and clowns; all beneath a star-studded ceiling. ***Potsdamer Strasse 96. ☎ 030-25-00-88-88. Tickets 19€–59€. www.wintergarten-variete.de. U-Bahn: Kurfürstenstrasse. Map p 134.***

Classical, Opera, & Ballet

★★★ **Berliner Philharmoniker** MITTE Hans Scharoun's asymmetrical concert hall is home to the high-profile Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, led by Brit conductor Sir Simon Rattle. Performances include contemporary and chamber music. Acoustics are superb, even at the back. ***Herbert-Von-Karajan-Strasse 1. ☎ 030-25-48-81-32. Tickets 7€–138€. www.berliner-philharmoniker.de. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 134.***

★★ **Deutsche Oper** CHARLOTTENBURG There are doubtless more aesthetically attractive opera houses, but it's what happens behind the walls that counts. Alongside productions such as Puccini's ***Tosca*** and Mozart's ***Magic Flute***, the venue stages regular classical concerts, recitals, and ballet. ***Biscmarckstrasse 35. ☎ 030-343-84-01. Tickets 5€–112€. www.deutscheoperberlin.com. U-Bahn: Deutsche Oper. Map p 133.***

★★ **Komische Oper** MITTE With stucco cherubs, chandeliers, and ruby-red trimmings, the opulent hall of this high-caliber opera house resembles a giant Fabergé egg. Avant-garde opera, musical theater, and ballet are performed in German. ***Behrenstrasse 55–57. ☎ 030-47-99-74-00. Tickets 8€–93€. www.komische-oper-berlin.de. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 134.***

★ **Konzerthaus** MITTE Where Mozart took the stage by storm and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 premiered, this grand concert hall on Gendarmenmarkt still strikes a chord with classical music lovers. It's home to the Deutsches Sinfonie-Orchester and innovative conductor Lothar Zagrosek. ***Gendarmenmarkt 2. ☎ 030-203-090. Tickets 13€–99€.***

www.konzerthaus.de. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse: Map p 134.

★★★ Staatsoper Unter den Linden MITTE Strauss was once chief conductor at Berlin's oldest opera house. Nowadays Daniel Barenboim takes the lead behind the Corinthian columns. The swish venue provides a stage for opera, chamber concerts, recitals, and ballet of remarkable quality. *Unter den Linden 7. ☎ 030-20-35-45-55. Tickets 5€–120€. www.staatsoper-berlin.org. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 134.*

Film

★ Arsenal MITTE This terrific cinema on Potsdamer Platz screens art-house films: from silent movies to French classics and retrospectives. Most are shown in their original language. *Potsdamer Strasse 2. ☎ 030-26-95-51-00. Tickets 7€. www.fdk-berlin.de. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 134.*

CinemaxX Potsdamer MITTE Hollywood blockbusters and mainstream releases attract cinemagoers to this 19-screen multiplex on Potsdamer Platz. Most are in German only. *Potsdamer Strasse 5. ☎ 01805-24-63-62-99. www.cinemaxx.de. Tickets 4.50€–7.30€. S-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 134.*

Hackeschen Höfe Film Theater MITTE This theater set in the Art Nouveau courtyards of Hackesche Höfe reels in movie buffs with a line-up of artistic and experimental film. In early November, it hosts the international short film festival Interfilm (www.interfilm.de). *Hackesche Höfe. ☎ 030-283-46-03. www.hackesche-hoefe.org. Tickets 7.50€. S-Bahn: Hackescher Markt. Map p 134.*

Live Music

★★★ A-Trane CHARLOTTENBURG Diana Krall, Herbie Hancock, and Alice Coltrane: A-Trane usually features a star-studded line-up. The club has a soulful, friendly feel that appeals to true jazz fans. Don't miss Saturday's free late-night jam sessions. *Bleibtreustrasse 1. ☎ 030-313-25-50. Cover 5€–20€. www.a-trane.de. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 133.*

Carmen at Staatsoper Unter den Linden.

B-Flat MITTE Diversity is the spice of B-Flat's offerings. The emphasis is on modern jazz and acoustic music, stretching from world rhythms to Latin beats, bebop to big bands. Free entry for Wednesday's acoustic sessions. *Rosenthaler Strasse 13. ☎ 030-283-31-23. Cover price varies. www.b-flat-berlin.de. U-Bahn: Rosenthaler Platz. Map p 134.*

★★ Columbiahalle TEMPELHOF Columbiahalle is Berlin's top stage for rock, pop, and indie concerts. Recent headliners include Travis and The Kooks. *Columbiadamm 13–21. ☎ 030-698-09-80. Tickets 20€–60€. www.columbiahalle.de. U-Bahn: Platz der Luftbrücke.*

Junction Bar KREUZBERG Big on Kreuzberg's live music scene, this grungy cellar hosts nightly gigs where up-and-coming bands play everything from acid jazz and alternative rock to German rap and reggae.

Gneisenaustrasse 18. ☎ *030-694-66-02. Tickets 3€–6€. www.junctionbar.de. U-Bahn: Gneisenaustrasse. Map p 134.*

★★★ **Quasimodo** CHARLOTTENBURG The backbone of Berlin's jazz scene is in this moody basement, where the walls are festooned with jazz legends. It's jam-packed most nights with a line-up alternating big names such as John Lee Hooker Jr. and Curtis Stigers with local talent. The venue occasionally embraces blues, Latin, or rock. *Kantstrasse 12a.* ☎ *030-312-80-86. ww.quasimodo.de. Cover 5€–24€. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 133.*

Spectator Sports

Alba Berlin PRENZLAUER BERG Basketball fans pile into Max-Schmeling-Halle arena to catch one of Alba Berlin's home matches (September to May). The team has a string of Bundesliga titles and German Cups to its name. *Am Falkplatz.* ☎ *030-30-09-05-55. Tickets 7.50€–32€. www.albaberlin.de. U-Bahn: Schönhauser Allee. Map p 134.*

★★ **Hertha BSC** CHARLOTTENBURG Berlin's ultramodern Olympic Stadium, which hosted the final of the 2006 football (soccer) World Cup, is the stomping ground of German league club Hertha BSC. Match tickets are usually available on the day. *Olympiastadion.* ☎ *01805-18-92-00. Tickets 9€–29€. www.herthabsc.de. S-Bahn: Olympiastadion. Map p 133.*

Stucco sculptures grace the façade of Theater des Westens.

Theater

★ **Admiralspalast** MITTE This Art Deco theater was a major stomping ground in the 1920s, when it was a cabaret, spa, and brothel. Alongside theater productions, you'll find thermal baths, a café, and a nightclub. *Friedrichstrasse 101-102.* ☎ *030-47-99-74-99. Tickets 13€–31€. www.admiralspalast.de. S-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse. Map p 134.*

★★★ **Deutsches Theater** MITTE Once directed by the legendary Max Reinhardt, this elegant 19th-century theater is home to the national drama company. The varied repertoire ranges from classics such as Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (in German) to Friedrich Dürrenmatt's *Die Physiker*. *Schumannstrasse 13a.* ☎ *030-28-44-12-25. Tickets 7€–43€. www.deutschestheater.de. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 134.*

★ **Maxim Gorki Theater** MITTE This theater just off Unter den Linden presents a scintillating program in an intimate setting. Expect the likes of Goethe's *The Sorrows of Young Werther* or Molière's comic drama *Amphitryon*. Young German playwrights also feature prominently. *Am Festungsgraben 2.* ☎ *030-20-22-11-15. www.gorki.de. Tickets 10€–30€. S-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse. Map p 134.*

Theater des Westens CHARLOTTENBURG Josephine Baker and Marlene Dietrich both performed at this glorious Art Nouveau theater. Nowadays it stages musicals in German, such as *The Three Musketeers* and *Tanz der Vampire*. *Kantstrasse 12.* ☎ *030-31-90-30. Ticket prices vary. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 133.*

9 The Best **Lodging**

Lodging **Best Bets**

The shapely Art Nouveau entrance to Askanischer Hof on Kurfürstendamm.

Best for **Wild Art Bedrooms**
★★★ Arte Luise Kunsthotel $$ *Oranienburger Strasse 52 (p 146)*

Best **1920s Flashback**
★★★ Askanischer Hof $$–$$$ *Kurfürstendamm 53 (p 146)*

Best **Shipshape Sleep**
★★ Eastern Comfort $ *Mühlenstrasse 73–77 (p 147)*

Best for **Hitchhiker Fans**
★★ Heart of Gold Hostel $ *Johannisstrasse 11 (p 147)*

Best **Breakfast**
★ Myer's Hotel $$ *Metzer Strasse 26 (p 149)*

Best for **Art Nouveau Style**
★★★ Hotel Art Nouveau $$–$$$ *Leibnizstrasse 59 (p 146)*

Best **Budget Digs**
★★★ EastSeven Hostel $ *Schwedter Strasse 7 (p 147)*

Best for **Lovers**
★★★ Honigmond $$–$$$ *Tieckstrasse 12 (p 147)*

Best **Colombian Charm**
★ Hotel Bogota $$ *Schlüterstrasse 45 (p 146)*

Best for **Old-World Opulence**
★★★ Hotel Adlon Kempinski $$$$$ *Unter den Linden 77 (p 145)*

Best **Courtyard**
★★ Hotel Riehmers Hofgarten $$ *Yorckstrasse 83 (p 150)*

Best **Boutique Hotels**
★★ Bleibtreu Hotel $$–$$$ *Bleibtreustrasse 31 (p 146)*; and ★★ Luisenhof $$–$$$ *Köpenicker Strasse 92 (p 148)*

Best **Celebrity Magnet**
★★★ Hotel Q! $$$ *Knesebeckstrasse 67 (p 149)*

Best **NY Loft-Style Apartments**
★ Adele Hotel $$$ *Greifswalder Strasse 227 (p 145)*

Best **Spa**
★★★ Ku'Damm 101 $$–$$$ *Kurfürstendamm 101 (p 147)*

Best **Zen Treatment**
★★★ Lux 11 $$$ *Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 9–13 (p 148)*

Best **Asian-Inspired Design**
★★★ Mandala Hotel $$$$–$$$$$ *Potsdamer Strasse 3 (p 148)*

Best **Rooftop Terrace**
★ Upstalsboom Hotel $$$ *Gubener Strasse 42 (p 150)*

Best for **Avant-Garde Luxury**
★★ Westin Grand $$$$–$$$$$ *Friedrichstrasse 158–164 (p 150)*

Best **Villa Hideaway**
★★ Pension Rotdorn $ *Heerstrasse 36 (p 149)*

Best for **Boutique Shoppers**
★ Pension Funk $–$$ *Fasanenstrasse 69 (p 149)*

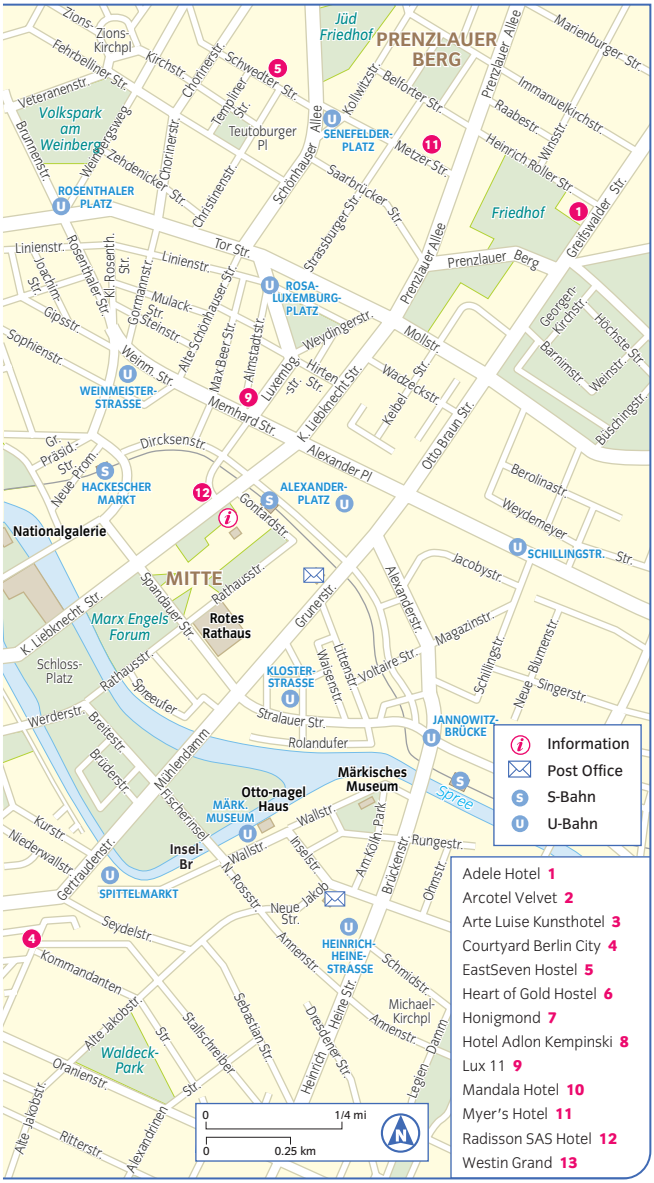
Best **Business Hotel**
★ Courtyard Berlin City Center $$–$$$ *Axel-Springer-Strasse 55 (p 147)*

Best for **Families**
★ Agon Frankfurter Allee $–$$ *Scharnweberstrasse 21–22 (p 145)*

Charlottenburg & Tiergarten
Lodging

Information
Post Office
S-Bahn
U-Bahn
Askanischer Hof 1
Bleibtreu Hotel 2
Hotel Art Nouveau 3
Hotel Bogota 4
Hotel Q 5
Ku'Damm 101 6
Motel One 7
Pension Funk 8
Pension Rotdorn 9
Propeller Island 10
CHARLOTTEN-BURG
Deutsche Oper Berlin
Schiller Theater
Tribüne-Theater
Technische Universität
Charlotten-Burger Br
Theater Des Westens
Berliner Panoptikum
Käthe-Kollwitz Museum
Ku'damm Karree
Th. De Freien Volksbühne
Goethe-park
LIETZENSEE-PARK
Lietzensee
ZOOLOG. GARTEN
MESSE NORD ICC
KAISERDAMM
BISMARCK-STR
DEUTSCHE OPER
ERNST REUTER PL
SOPHIE-CHARLOTTE-PLATZ
WILMERSDORFER STR
SAVIGNYPL
UHLANDSTRASSE
KURFÜRSTEN-DAMM
ADENAUERPL
CHARLOTTENBURG
Strasse Des 17 Juni
Müller-Breslau-Str.
Fasanenstr.
Hardenbergstr.
Steinpl.
Uhlandstr.
Carmerstr.
Kantstr.
Savigny-platz
Knesebeckstr.
Grolmanstr.
Goethestr.
Schillerstr.
Ernst-Reuter Pl
Aschinger Theater
Schulterstr.
Herderstr.
Leibnizstr.
Weimarer Str.
Bismarckstr.
Sessenheimer Str.
Pestalozzistr.
Krumme Str.
Wilmersdorfer Str.
Spielhagenstr.
Schillerstr.
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str.
Fritschestr.
Zillestr.
Sophie-Charlotte-Platz
Horstweg
Kaiserdamm
Witzlebenstr.
Witzleben-platz
Neue Kantstr.
Suarezstr.
Mommsenstr.
Niebuhrstr.
Giesebrechtstr.
Wilmersdorfer Str.
Sybelstr.
Lewishamstr.
Waitzstr.
Kurfürstendamm
Dahlmannstr.
Droysenstr.
Joachim-Friedrich-Str.
Gervinusstr.
Clausewitzstr.
Xantener Str.
Duisb. Str.
Düsseldorfer Str.
Pariser Str.
Lietzenburger Str.
Mommsenstr.
Kurfürstendamm
Bleibtreustr.
Knesebeckstr.
G Grosz Pl
Schlüterstr.
Wieland Str.
Leibnizstr.
Olivaer Platz
Konstanzer Str.
Brienzer Str.
Bayernsche Str.
Ludwigkirchstr.
Ludwigkirchpl
Meinekestr.
Rankestr.
Rankepl
Los-Angeles-Platz
Augsburger Str.
Eislebener Str.
Schaperstr.
Eisenzahnstr.
Meerscheidtstr.
Fasanenstr.
Joachimstalerstr.
Hardenbergstr.
Budapester Str.
Lützowufer
Reichstagufer
Hofjägerallee
Tiergarten
Großer Stern
Siegessäule
Straße des 17 Juni
Ebertstr.
Scheidemannstr.
Reichstag
Dorotheenstr.
Reinhardtstr.
Schiffbauerdamm
Friedrichstr.
Unter den Linden
Wilhelmstr.
Behrenstr.
Französische Str.
Mohrenstr.
Jägerstr.
Leipziger Str.
Potsdamer Platz
Potsdamer Str.
Lützowstr.
Lützowpl.
Kleiststr.
Nollendorfpl.
Hauptstr.
Eisenacher Str.
Kolonnenstr.
Grunewaldstr.
Martin-Luther-Str.
Innsbrucker Str.
Hohenstaufenstr.
Motzstr.
Kalckreuthstr.
Eisackstr.
Regensburger Str.
Barbarossapl.
Eisenzahnstr.
Kurfürstenstr.
Potsdamer Str.
Yorckstr.
Großgörschenstr

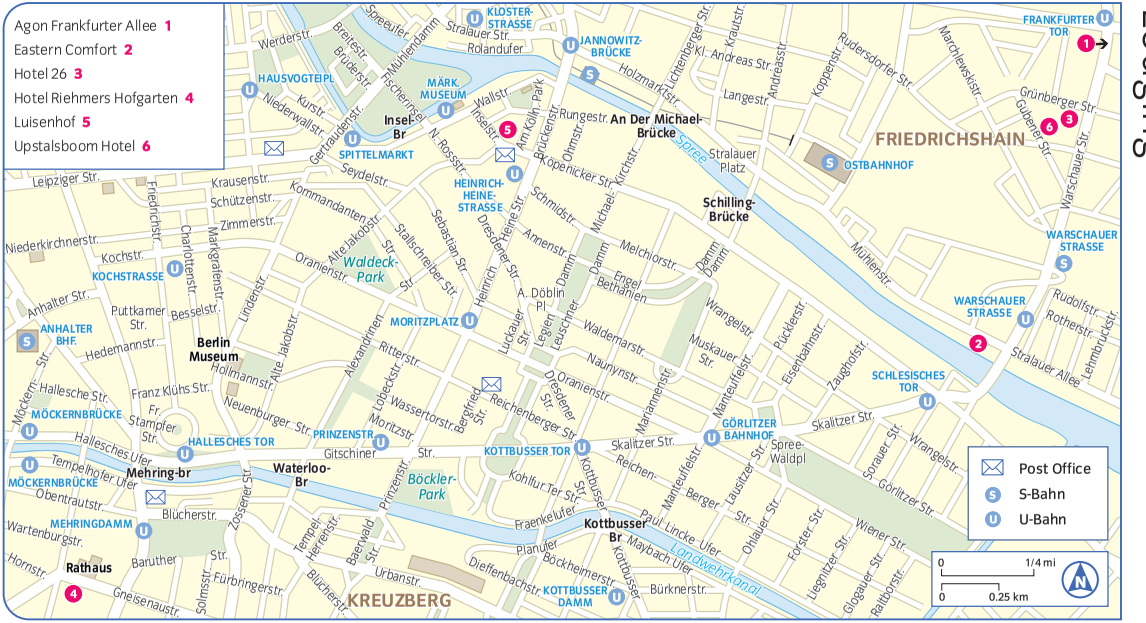
Mitte & Prenzlauer Berg Lodging



- Adele Hotel **1**
- Arcotel Velvet **2**
- Arte Luise Kunsthotel **3**
- Courtyard Berlin City **4**
- EastSeven Hostel **5**
- Heart of Gold Hostel **6**
- Honigmond **7**
- Hotel Adlon Kempinski **8**
- Lux 11 **9**
- Mandala Hotel **10**
- Myer's Hotel **11**
- Radisson SAS Hotel **12**
- Westin Grand **13**

Kreuzberg & Friedrichshain

Lodging



Berlin Lodging **A to Z**

★ **Hotel 26** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Stefan Lorenzen worked his magic to revamp a factory into this modern hotel, within staggering distance of Friedrichshain's bars. Though fairly plain, rooms are clean and light, with cable TV. The sunny garden has loungers for chilling. ***Grünberger Strasse 26. ☎ 030-29-77-78-0. www.hotel26-berlin.de. 18 units. Doubles 69€–99€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Frankfurter Tor. Map p 144.***

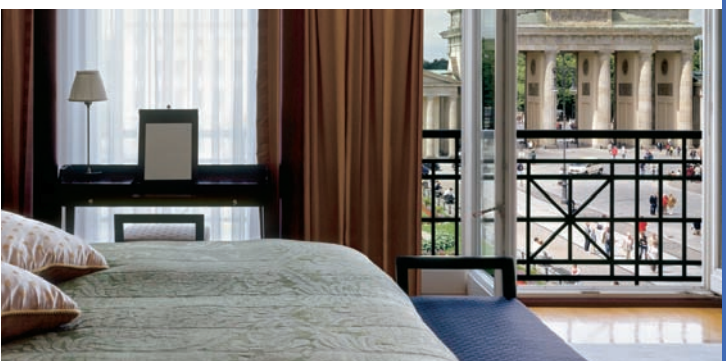
★ **Adele Hotel** PRENZLAUER BERG Designer flair with an urban edge. The spacious rooms here recall New York loft apartments with wood floors, clean hues, and snazzy touches from velvet throws to Bauhaus-inspired furniture. The style is modern and functional, but not sterile. ***Greifswalder Strasse 227. ☎ 030-44-32-43-10. www.adele-hotel.de. 14 units. Doubles 150€ w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Greifswalder Strasse. Map p 142.***

★★★ **Hotel Adlon Kempinski** MITTE Facing the Brandenburg Gate, this palatial hotel epitomizes ***belle époque*** opulence today just as it did when opened in 1907. Over the years, it has rolled out the red carpet for celebrities including Greta Garbo and Charlie Chaplin. Rooms offer old-school luxury with cherry-wood furnishings, brocade silk, and marble bathrooms—all at a price, mind. ***Unter den Linden 77. ☎ 030-22-61-11-11. www.hotel-adlon.de. 382 units. Doubles 420€–530€. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Unter den Linden. Map p 142.***

★ kids **Agon Frankfurter Allee** FRIEDRICHSHAIN This redbrick Victorian townhouse tucked down a cobbled street off Frankfurter Allee has been lovingly restored. Mediterranean colors now give the spacious rooms warmth, and staff will happily supply an extra children's bed if you ask. The substantial breakfast always features healthy options. ***Scharnweberstrasse 21–22. ☎ 030-29-77-77-0. www.agon-frankfurter-allee.de. 73 units. Doubles 61€–149€ w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Samariterstrasse. Map p 144.***

★★ **Arcotel Velvet** MITTE The glass-fronted Arcotel eclipses Berlin's other chain hotels with its seamless aesthetics. Open-plan bathrooms morph into groovy bedrooms, where dark wood, wine-red fabrics, and Pop Art elements combine. Gadgets such as flat-screen TVs and DVD players add a high-tech touch. Sink into a red leather

A suite at Hotel Adlon with views to the Brandenburg Gate.

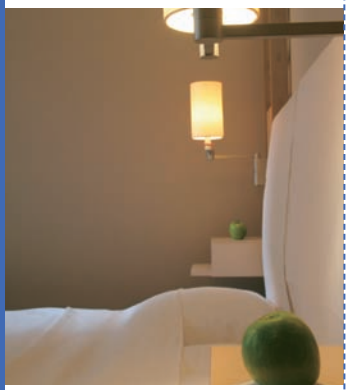


club chair in the lounge for a zingy Currant Royal cocktail. ***Oranienburger Strasse 52. ☎ 030-27-87-53-0. www.arcotel.at. 85 units. Doubles 108€–173€. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Oranienburger Strasse. Map p 142.***

★★★ kids Hotel Art Nouveau CHARLOTTENBURG Christine and Gerd have cleverly accentuated the original features of this Art Nouveau retreat, and run it with a smile. An old elevator creaks you up to high-ceilinged rooms with huge windows, stucco, and hardwood floors. Each is individually designed with bold prints and color schemes, from monochrome Japanese to the sunny yellow room. ***Leibnizstrasse 59. ☎ 030-32-77-44-0. www.hotelartnouveau.de. 240 units. Doubles 126€–176€ w/breakfast. AE, DC MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 141.***

★★★ Arte Luise Kunsthotel MITTE This art hotel is fabulously quirky, whether you prefer your walls decorated with spray-paint bananas, hot-pink bedding, or a room studded with crayon-bright Wellington boots. Whichever you pick, you'll sleep in a one-off work of art. The adjacent railway track is noisy, so take earplugs or request a courtyard-facing room. ***Luisenstrasse 19. ☎ 030-28-44-80. www.luise-berlin.com. 50 units. Doubles 121€–150€. MC, V. U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse. Map p 142.***

Apples become works of art at Bleibtreu Hotel.



★★★ kids Askanischer Hof CHARLOTTENBURG A real old-world charmer, this bijou hotel propels you back to the early 20th century from the moment you step into its Art Nouveau hall. The affable Glinicke family have lovingly decorated the high-ceilinged rooms with pot plants and hat stands. Black-and-white photos of 1920s starlets festoon the dining room, where they serve a delicious breakfast of fresh eggs, bread, and cheese. ***Kurfürstendamm 53. ☎ 030-881-80-33. www.askanischer-hof.de. 16 units. Doubles 117€–185€ w/breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 141.***

★★ Bleibtreu Hotel CHARLOTTENBURG This boutique hotel, set inside a 19th-century patrician house, is in an appropriately elegant part of town. Natural light, clean lines, and blonde wood give the rooms a sense of space. Alongside Wi-Fi and cable TV, you find—squeals of joy!—a free minibar and a shiny Granny Smith apple beside your bed. There's also a steam room. ***Bleibtreustrasse 31. ☎ 030-884-74-0. www.bleibtreu.com. 60 units. Doubles 124€–227€. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 141.***

★ kids Hotel Bogota CHARLOTTENBURG Entering this hotel near Ku'Damm is like stepping into a Gabriel García Márquez novel; it's a snippet of old-world Colombia in Berlin. Although a tad dark, the high-ceilinged rooms are cosy and sensibly priced; friendly staff even squeeze in a children's bed at no extra cost. Breakfast, however, is nothing to rave about. ***Schlüterstrasse 45. ☎ 030-881-50-01.***

www.bogota.de. 130 units. Doubles 74€–118€ w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. S-Bahn: Savignyplatz. Map p 141.

★ Courtyard Berlin City Center MITTE Business travelers choose this value-for-money Marriott hotel for its central location, two minutes' walk from Spittelmarkt U-Bahn station. Contemporary doubles feature desks with high-speed Internet access and laptop-sized safes. There are conference facilities for up to 250 people, a sauna, and a gym. *Axel-Springer-Strasse 55. ☎ 030-800-92-80. www.marriott.com. 276 units. Doubles 109€–250€ w/breakfast. AE, DC, M, V. U-Bahn: Spittelmarkt. Map p 142.*

★★ Eastern Comfort FRIEDRICHSHAIN For sheer novelty value, this riverboat moored on the Spree in Friedrichshain is hard to beat. Choose a cozy double cabin complete with portholes, or bed down in the bunkroom. You'll find fellow drifters sipping cold beer under the stars on the upper deck. *Mühlenstrasse 73-77. ☎ 030-66-76-38-06. www.eastern-comfort.com. 24 units. Doubles 54€–76€. MC, V. S-Bahn: Ostbahnhof. Map p 144.*

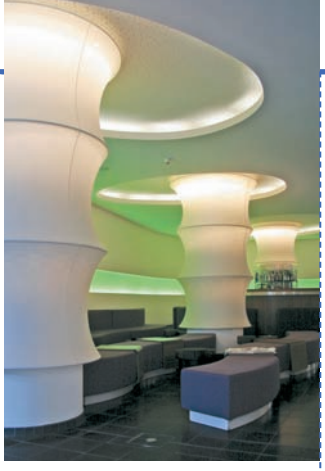
★★★ kids EastSeven Hostel PRENZLAUER BERG Upping the ante in the budget stakes is this retro-style hostel, where cheery staff make backpackers feel at home with perks such as free Wi-Fi and walking tours. The immaculate rooms sport wooden floors and zingy paintjobs; kids' beds are available on request. Other pluses include a shared kitchen and garden for summertime barbecues. *Schwedter Strasse 7. ☎ 030-93-62-22-40. www.eastseven.de. Beds 12€–35€. MC, V. U-Bahn: Senefelder Platz. Map p 142.*

★★ Heart of Gold Hostel MITTE In true *Hitchhiker* style, the motto here is don't panic! You needn't: rooms are spacey, spotless, and a bargain given the central location. As well as whale-themed decor and other intergalactic paraphernalia, the hostel offers amenities to make budget travelers' hearts sing: free Wi-Fi, cheap drinks, and no curfew. *Johannisstrasse 11. ☎ 030-29-00-33-00. www.heartofgold-hostel.de. 46 units. Rooms 14€–40€. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Friedrichstrasse. Map p 142.*

★★★ Honigmond MITTE How fitting that Berlin's sweetest boutique hotel is called "honeymoon". Romantics will fall in love with the garden's creeping vines, palms, and croaking frogs. The high-ceilinged rooms are also a joy, decorated with hardwood floors, stucco, and antiques. Real honeymooners can opt for the four-poster treatment. *Tieckstrasse 12. ☎ 030-28-44-55-0. www.honigmond-berlin.de. 44 units. Doubles 109€–189€ w/breakfast. MC, V. U-Bahn: Oranienburger Tor. Map p 142.*

★★ Ku'Damm 101 CHARLOTTENBURG The lobby at Ku'Damm 101 is a temple to contemporary aesthetics, and sets the scene for what's to come, with lime-green walls and concertina columns. Rooms are equally slick, decorated

Four-poster romance at Honigmond boutique hotel.



The concertina-style columns in the lobby at Ku'Damm 101.

in muted tones with bold furniture by leading German designers; 17 are equipped for the visually impaired. Start your day with breakfast views over Berlin and end it with Shiatsu in the spa. ***Kurfürstendamm 101. ☎ 030-52-00-55-0. www.kudamm101.com. 170 units. Doubles 119€–250€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Adenauerplatz. Map p 141.***

★★ **Luisenhof** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Just around the corner from the bears at Köllnischer Park, lies this boutique hotel dating from 1822. It's an enchanting place with lofty ceilings and a graceful oval stairwell. The period style is also captured in the mint-and-cream striped rooms with sleek drapes, fresh roses, and marble bathrooms. ***Köpenicker Strasse 92. ☎ 030-246-28-10. www.luisenhof.de. 27 units. Doubles 119€–250€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Märkisches Museum. Map p 144.***

★★ **Lux 11** MITTE This oh-so-stylish design hotel is an immaculate conception: seven floors are given over to virginal white, Zen-inspired apartments, boasting sexy transparent shower screens, fully-equipped kitchens, and DVD players. Its cool factor rises with playful elements such as faux fur and splashes of burnt gold and crimson. Downstairs, the fashionable Shiro i Shiro bistro serves tasty sashimi. ***Rosa-Luxemburg-Strasse 9–13. ☎ 030-93-62-80-0. http://lux-eleven.de. 72 units. Doubles 165€–205€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 142.***

★★★ **Mandala Hotel** MITTE Unpretentiously elegant, the Mandala fuses creature comforts with avant-garde design. Artistic flower

Moneysaving Tips

Advance reservations are essential during Berlin's busiest periods: June to September and Christmas/Easter holidays. Outside of these times, you can pick up great deals; particularly if you check-in midweek and are flexible about location. In winter (November through February), crowds are thinner and many hotels drop rates by around 20%. **Berlin Tourist Information** (p 164) offers a free accommodation booking service and best-price guarantee. Most visitors want to stay close to the shops and sights in Mitte and Charlottenburg, so expect more for your euro in edgier districts such as Kreuzberg, Prenzlauer Berg, and Friedrichshain, offering a younger vibe and pulsating nightlife. For discount hotels and last-minute deals, try **Priceline** (www.priceline.com), **Travel Ape** (www.travelape.com), and **Late Rooms** (www.laterooms.com).

displays, gold mosaic walls, and Asian elements infuse warmth throughout. After a long day, the Qui cocktail lounge, 11th floor spa, and Michael Kemp's garden restaurant await. ***Potsdamer Strasse 3. ☎ 030-590-05-00-00. www.themandala.de. Suites 270€–2220€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Potsdamer Platz. Map p 142.***

★ **Motel One** CHARLOTTENBURG If you sleep like a log despite train noise, this is a good-value choice. The location a few steps from Theater des Westens and Ku'Damm is the biggest draw. Rooms have flat-screen TVs and granite bathrooms, and the funky lobby bar serves up snacks and free Wi-Fi. ***Kantstrasse 7. ☎ 030-31-51-73-60. www.motel-one.de. 249 units. Doubles 74€–94€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Zoologischer Garten. Map p 141.***

★ **Myer's Hotel** PRENZLAUER BERG This 19th-century townhouse turned boutique hotel is just a short stroll from café-lined Kollwitzplatz. Lanterns and a pretty garden give the place a whimsical air, while rooms are dressed in subtle creams and honey wood. Relax over a cup of tea in the red tea-room, or cocktails in the lobby bar where smooth jazz or classical music plays all evening. ***Metzer Strasse 26. ☎ 030-44-01-40. www.myershotel.de. 41 units. Doubles 95€–195€ w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Senefelderplatz. Map p 142.***

★ **Pension Funk** CHARLOTTENBURG What this charming guesthouse lacks in frills, it makes up for with a top location off Ku'Damm. The former home of silent-movie star Asta Nielsen is a flashback to the 1920s with its curvy windows and stucco. Smallish rooms are more granny's living room (floral wallpaper, net curtains) than Art Nouveau glamor, however. ***Fasanenstrasse 69. ☎ 030-882-71-93. www.hotel-pensionfunk.de. 14 units. Doubles 52€–113€ w/breakfast. MC, V. U-Bahn: Uhlandstrasse. Map p 141.***

★★ **Pension Rotdorn** CHARLOTTENBURG Set among tranquil gardens, this 1920s villa is a stone's throw from the Olympic stadium and Grunewald forest. A helpful family runs the guesthouse, where light rooms with velvet furnishings, dark wood, and brass mirrors ooze old-world charm. ***Heerstrasse 36. ☎ 030-30-09-92-92. www.pension-rotdorn.de. 18 units. Doubles 45€–80€ w/breakfast. No credit cards. S-Bahn: Heerstrasse. Map p 141.***

★★ **Propeller Island City Lodge** CHARLOTTENBURG Creative types will love this zany hotel, designed by German artist Lars Stroschen. Whether you choose to sleep in the kaleidoscopic "Mirror Room", drift off in the "Flying Bed", or go Gothic with a coffin, rooms here are pure fantasy. ***Albrecht-Achilles-Strasse 58. ☎ 030-891-90-96 (8am–noon). www.propeller-island.com. 32 units. Doubles 84€–205€; breakfast 7€. MC, V. U-Bahn: Adenauerplatz. Map p 141.***

★★★ **Hotel Q!** CHARLOTTENBURG Self-consciously hip and flaunting a string of design awards, Q! is a magnet for fashionistas and film stars such as Brad Pitt. The style isn't

The avant-garde lobby at Berlin's smart Mandala Hotel.

elegant; it's vampy with wavy walls, scarlet accents, and low lighting. It's a bit of affordable glamor, albeit of the unconventional kind. *Knesebeckstrasse 67. ☎ 030-810-06-60. www.loock-hotels.com. 18 units. Doubles 149€–190€ w/ breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Uhlandstrasse. Map p 141.*

★★ **Radisson SAS Hotel** MITTE On the banks of the River Spree facing the Berliner Dom, the Radisson's star attraction is the 25m-high AquaDom in the lobby, the world's largest cylindrical aquarium. Minimalist rooms feature the luxurious trappings that come with their price tag, including free Wi-Fi. Unwind with a massage at the spa or decadent cocktails in the ultra-modern Aqua Lounge. *Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse 3. ☎ 030-23-82-80. www.berlin.radissonsas.com. 427 units. Doubles 149€–340€ w/ breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Alexanderplatz. Map p 142.*

★★ kids **Hotel Riehmers Hofgarten** KREUZBERG Situated in Berlin's most perfect Art Nouveau courtyard, this boutique hotel is a real find. Staff are friendly, the area non-touristy, and the rooms (though not flash) are still charming with high ceilings, stucco, and creaking floors. Saunter down to the staircase for drinks beside the grand piano or dinner in the excellent French-German restaurant. *Yorckstrasse 83. ☎ 030-78-09-88-00. www.hotel-riehmers-hofgarten.de. 22 units. Doubles 129€–145€ w/breakfast. AE, MC, V. U-Bahn: Mehringdamm. Map p 144.*

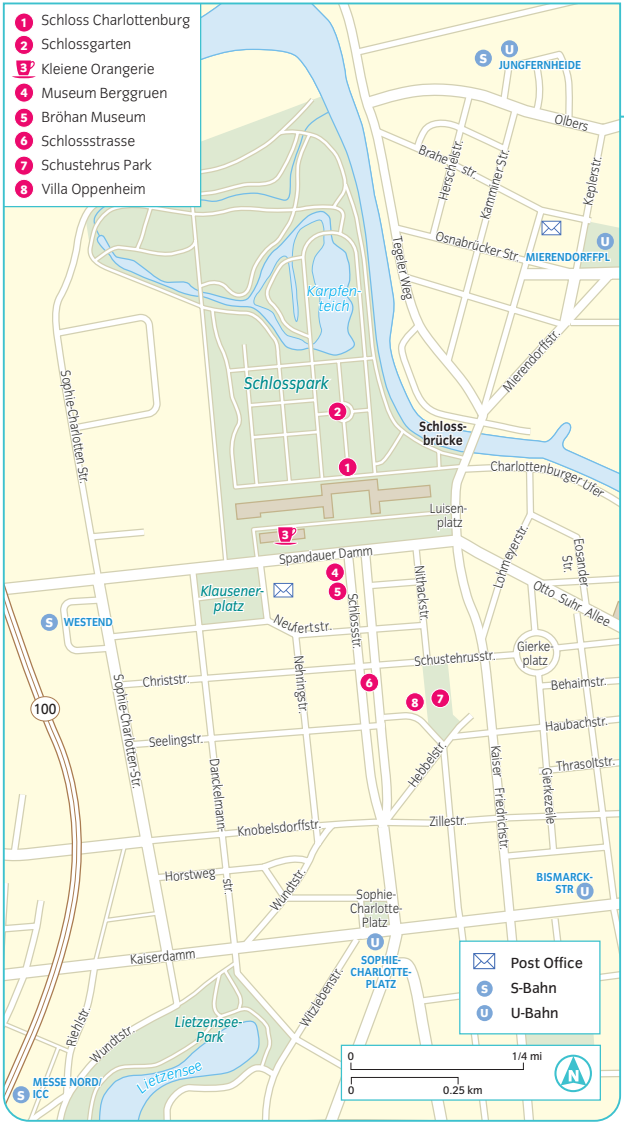
★ **Upstalsboom Hotel** FRIEDRICHSHAIN Despite an atmosphere teetering on corporate, this hotel's perks a-plenty still tempt. Modern rooms are painted in soothing blues and yellows. Upstairs there's a re-energizing sauna and lounge on the rooftop terrace. There's even bacon and eggs for breakfast. *Gubener Strasse 42. ☎ 030-29-37-50. www.upstalsboom.de. 169 units. Doubles 104€–244€ w/breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. S-Bahn: Warschauer Strasse. Map p 144.*

★★ **Westin Grand** MITTE This upscale pad in the heart of the action offers an unrivaled style-to-euro ratio. A grand staircase sweeps up to contemporary rooms decorated in shades of chocolate and caramel, with welcome extras such as flat-screen TVs, fluffy bathrobes, and garden views. Downtime can be spent steaming in the spa or indulging in crustaceans and champagne in the lobster house. *Friedrichstrasse 158–164. ☎ 030-202-70. www.starwoodhotels.com. 359 units. Doubles 189€–520€. AE, DC, MC, V. U-Bahn: Französische Strasse. Map p 142.* ●

The lounge bar at über-cool Hotel Q!

10 The Best Day Trips & Excursions

Schloss Charlottenburg & Around



Go west for a treasure chest of Versailles proportions. The frilly summer palace of Schloss Charlottenburg, with its state apartments decked out in gold, damask, and prized porcelain, merits half a day of your time. When portraits of royalty begin to pall, roam its sculpture gardens on the banks of the Spree then head for Museum Berggruen's Picasso collection. In the evening, the elegant bistros and café fringing Schlossstrasse beckon. **START: S-Bahn to Westend.**

1 ★★★ Schloss Charlottenburg. King Friedrich I of Prussia gave this not-so-humble abode to his sweetheart, Sophie Charlotte, as a token of his affection in 1699. The summer palace is the jewel in Berlin's Hohenzollern crown and a feast of Italian baroque. The lemon façade alone is breathtaking; partly modeled on Versailles and adorned with Attica-style sculptures. Note the bronze statue of the king mounted on a horse—a great vantage point if you're feeling snap-happy. The state-rooms are overwhelming, so I recommend you concentrate on the Altes Schloss (Old Grossen Kurfürsten Palace). You can take in the Great Oak Gallery, an exquisitely carved, oak-paneled banquet hall completed in 1713, the crimson and gold Red Damask Chamber, emblazoned with the Prussian eagle, and the king's all-gold Bedchamber where Friedrich beams down from the walls. The highlight is the Porcelain Room, brimming with 2,700 pieces of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, from cups to trinkets and vases. Whatever you do, don't trip. *1 hr. Spandauer Damm 10–22. ☎ 030-32-09-11. www.spsg.de. Admission 10€ adults, 7€ concessions. Tues–Sun 9am–5pm, Mon closed. S-Bahn: Westend.*

Tree-fringed Schlossstrasse boulevard sweeps up to Schloss Charlottenburg.

Gaze up at the Grossen Kurfürsten statue at Schloss Charlottenburg.

2 ★★★ kids Schlossgarten. Berliners come to jog, stroll, and flop in the sunshine at Schloss Charlottenburg's 55-hectare grounds. Laid out in French baroque style by Siméon Godeau in 1697, the landscaped park reveals petite summer palaces and River Spree views.

Tucked behind the Schloss is the **A Neue Pavillon**, built by the ubiquitous Prussian architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel for King Friedrich Wilhelm III in 1824. The summer palace is inspired by Neapolitan Villa Reale del Chiatamone, where the king stayed on his visit to Italy in 1822. Step inside to view an exhibition of Biedermeier porcelain and paintings, including works by German Romantic painter Carl Blechen. Stroll the ornamental **B Parterre**, planted with perennials, snapdragons, and irises. This leads to the **C Carp Pond**, where I have my camera handy for a wide-screen view of the palace with the gardens in the foreground. Farther north lies the

D Mausoleum, a neoclassical, columned temple harboring the ornate Carrara marble sarcophagus of Queen Luise of Prussia who died in 1810, and her beloved husband Friedrich William III who departed 30 years later. Continue northeast to the riverfront to appreciate Carl Gotthard Langhans' bijou **E Belvedere**, a 1788 rococo pavilion topped by a bronze cupola. Friedrich Wilhelm III used to enjoy tea and classical music here. Inside is a precious collection of porcelain by royal manufacturer KPM. *1½ hr. Admission to gardens free; Neue Pavillon 2€; Belvedere 2€; Mausoleum 1€. Gardens: daily 8am–dusk. Outer buildings Tue–Sun 10am–5pm. S-Bahn: Westend.*

Kleine Orangerie. After a romp through the palace and gardens, this conservatory-style café is a fine place to take time out. When the sun's shining, sit under the chestnut trees in the garden to munch on crisp *Flammkuchen* (Alsatian pizza) or waffles with ice cream. *Spandauer Damm 20. 0331-237-07-30. $–$$.*

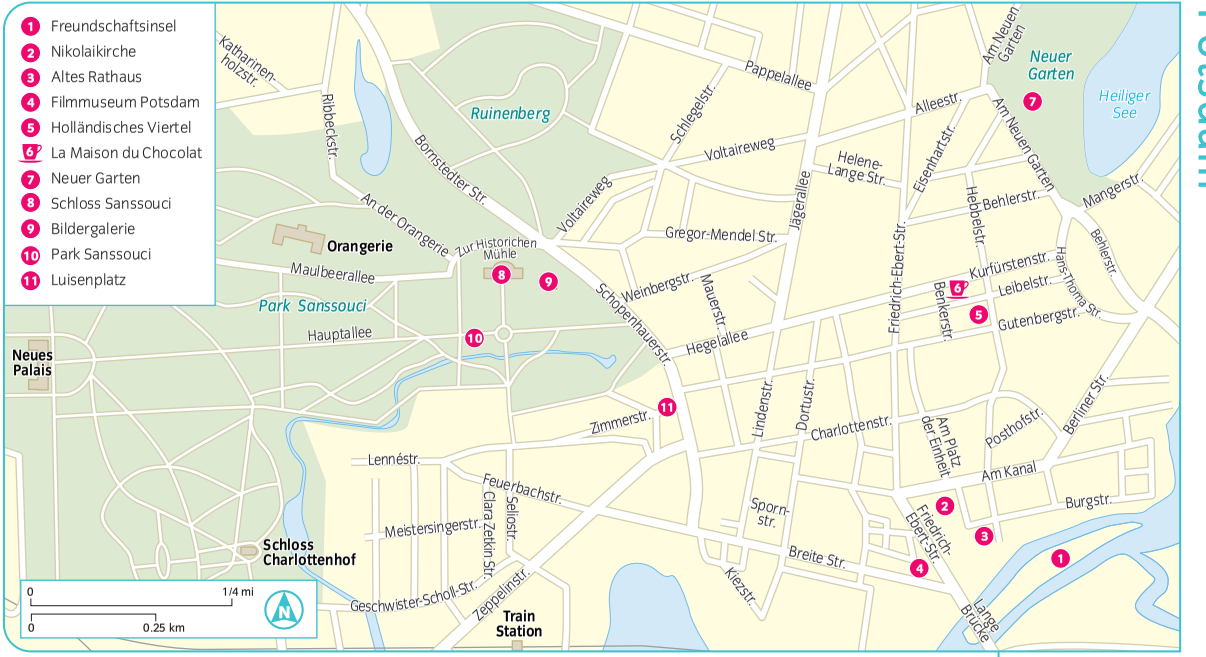
4 ★★★ Museum Berggruen. Modern art fans shouldn't miss this fabulous gallery in the pink villa opposite Schloss Charlottenburg. It houses the private collection of Heinz Berggruen (1914–2007), one of the most prolific German-born Jewish art collectors of the 20th century. The star attraction is his Picasso collection, showcasing around 100 works, from the artist's early sketches to expressive Blue Period creations. Keep an eye out for the 1909 cubist masterpiece ***Houses on the Hill***. Paul Klee originals, Henri Matisse paper-cuts, and Alberto Giacometti sculptures complement an exhibition that spans three floors. ***1 hr. Schlossstrasse 1. ☎ 030-32-69-58-15. Admission 6€ adults, 3€ concessions. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Mon closed. S-Bahn: Westend.***

5 ★ Bröhan Museum. Next door is another little-known gem: a temple to Berlin art dealer and collector Karl Bröhan's ***Jugendstil*** (Art Nouveau) and Art Deco treasures. The 1stfloor takes a chronological spin through interior design, emphasizing French and Belgian styles, from fine Meissen porcelain to Emille Gallé's exquisite glasswork. The 2nd floor gallery presents pastels and paintings, including Berlin Secessionist works by Karl Hagemeister (1848–1933) and Walter Leistikow (1865–1908). Step up to the 4th floor to admire Art Nouveau and Functionalist furniture by Henry van de Velde (1863–1957) and Josef Hoffmann (1870–1956). ***45 min. Schlossstrasse 1a. ☎ 030-32-69-06-00. www.broehan-museum.de. Admission 5€ adults, 4€ concessions, free for children under 13. Tues–Sun 10am–6pm, Thurs until 8pm, Mon closed. S-Bahn: Westend.***

6 ★★ Schlossstrasse. This leafy boulevard is superb for a languid stroll through gentrified Charlottenburg. It was built in the 17th century (then called Breite Strasse, "wide street") with lodgings for royal servants. Now lined with grand villas and elegant restaurants, the avenue exudes a regal air. Near Schloss Charlottenburg, you can spot Eugen Boermel's bronze memorial to Prince Albert of Prussia (1809–1872), a Prussian colonel general. A few paces further on the left, take note of no. 67, a 19th-century Mediterranean-style villa with a graceful sandstone façade and green shutters. Equally attractive is no. 65, a soaring ***Jugendstil*** townhouse embellished with stucco garlands. About half way down on the right is Seelingstrasse with more Art Nouveau architecture to admire. In the late afternoon, locals often gather on the boulevard to play boules or walk their poodles. ***30 min. U-Bahn: Sophie-Charlotte-Platz.***

7 kids Schustehrus Park. A detour onto Schustehrusstrasse brings you to this quiet pocket of greenery, once the garden of Villa Oppenheim (bullet 8). With its mature trees, herbaceous borders, and groomed lawns, it's a romantic park off the well-trodden tourist trail. There's a small children's playground. ***20 min. Schustehrusstrasse. U-Bahn: Sophie-Charlotte-Platz.***

8 ★ Villa Oppenheim. Recently restored to its former glory, this 19th-century villa presents special exhibitions of contemporary paintings, photography, and installations. Recently these have included emotive works by French photographer François-Marie Banier and graphic artist Eberhard Blum. ***45 min. Schlossstrasse 55. ☎ 030-902-92-41-51. www.villaoppenheim.de. Admission free. Tues–Fri 10am–5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, Sat and Mon closed. U-Bahn: Sophie-Charlotte-Platz.***


1 Freundschaftsinsel
2 Nikolaikirche
3 Altes Rathaus
4 Filmmuseum Potsdam
5 Holländisches Viertel
6 La Maison du Chocolat
7 Neuer Garten
8 Schloss Sanssouci
9 Bildergalerie
10 Park Sanssouci
11 Luisenplatz
Katharinenholzstr.
Ribbeckstr.
Ruinenberg
Bornstedter Str.
An der Orangerie
Zur Historischen Mühle
Orangerie
Maulbeerallee
Park Sanssouci
Hauptallee
Neues Palais
Voltaireweg
Schlegelstr.
Pappelallee
Am Neuen Garten
Neuer Garten
Heiliger See
Alleestr.
Eisenhartstr.
Helene-Lange Str.
Jägerallee
Gregor-Mendel Str.
Hebbelstr.
Behlerstr.
Mangerstr.
Schopenhauerstr.
Weinbergstr.
Mauerstr.
Friedrich-Ebert-Str.
Kurfürstenstr.
Leibelstr.
Hans-Thoma Str.
Gutenbergstr.
Hegelallee
Zimmerstr.
Lindenstr.
Dortustr.
Charlottenstr.
Am Platz der Einheit
Posthofstr.
Berliner Str.
Am Kanal
Lennéstr.
Feuerbachstr.
Clara Zetkin Str.
Sellostr.
Meistersingerstr.
Schloss Charlottenhof
Sporn-str.
Friedrich-Ebert-Str.
Burgstr.
Breite Str.
Kiezstr.
Geschwister-Scholl-Str.
Zeppelinstr.
Train Station
Lange Brücke
0 1/4 mi
0 0.25 km

Potsdam, capital of the Berlin-Brandenburg region and UNESCO World Heritage site, is just 24km southwest of Berlin. Within the space of a day you can time-travel to architecture inspired by Ancient Greece, glimpse quintessentially Dutch gables in the Holländisches Viertel, and explore an English country garden, Tudor manor and all. Potsdam's biggest asset, however, is Park Sanssouci: a Prussian jewel box stuffed with baroque architecture.

START: **40 min. train journey from Berlin Hauptbahnhof to Potsdam.**

1 kids Freundschaftsinsel. Friendship Island hugging the banks of the River Havel is given over to a charming English-style garden. Start your day with a picnic breakfast under the willows shading the riverfront, or saunter among the flowery lawns where abstract bronze sculptures peep above the bushes. *30 min. Lange Brücke. Admission free. Daily 7am–dusk.*

2 Nikolaikirche. You may be forgiven for thinking that you're in Italy while admiring this mighty neoclassical creation, completed in 1837 and inspired by Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome. Rising above a cobblestone square, the church is the handiwork of Karl Friedrich Schinkel (1781–1841), a prolific 19th-century German architect. Soaring columns guide your eye to the central cupola and angels gracing the towers. At the excavation site opposite, archaeologists have unearthed late Ice Age artifacts dating to 10,000 BC. *20 min. Am Alten Markt. ☎ 0331-270-86-02. Admission free. Mon–Sat 10am–5pm, Sun 11.30am–5pm.*

3 Altes Rathaus. Next door, this Greco-Roman inspired town hall dating to the mid-18th century grabs your attention with its Corinthian colonnade and cherubs. Perched on top of the cupola is the mythological Greek Titan Atlas, bent under the weight of his globe. *10 min. Am Alten Markt.*

Glimpse Atlas atop Potsdam's Altes Rathaus.

4 ★ Filmmuseum Potsdam. These former Prussian royal stables have lost none of their splendor, with an elongated baroque façade and shapely windows. The museum inside traces the history of the Babelsberg studios, which have produced films starring talent such as Marlene Dietrich and Jude Law. Movie buffs are sure to love the collection of props, costumes, and film clips. *45 min. Breite Strasse 1a. ☎ 0331-271-81-12. www.filmmuseum-potsdam.de. Admission 3.50€ adults, 2€ concessions. Daily 10am–6pm.*

5 ★★ Holländisches Viertel. See Holland in miniature: this quaint district centered around Am Bassin and Benkerstrasse is named after the Dutch craftsmen who came to Potsdam in the mid-18th century at the invitation of "Soldier King" Frederick Wilhelm I. As you wander the cobbled lanes past redbrick gabled houses look for Am Bassin 10, where Mozart lived in 1789, and the Italianate belfry of nearby St Peter und Paul Kirche (1870). Roam the antique shops, boutiques, and galleries lining Benkerstrasse for everything from jewelry to handthrown pots. Stepping northwest, the neo-Gothic Nauener Tor (1755) is one of the last remaining city gates. *45 min.*

Rest by the fountain on Luisenplatz to admire the Brandenburg Gate.

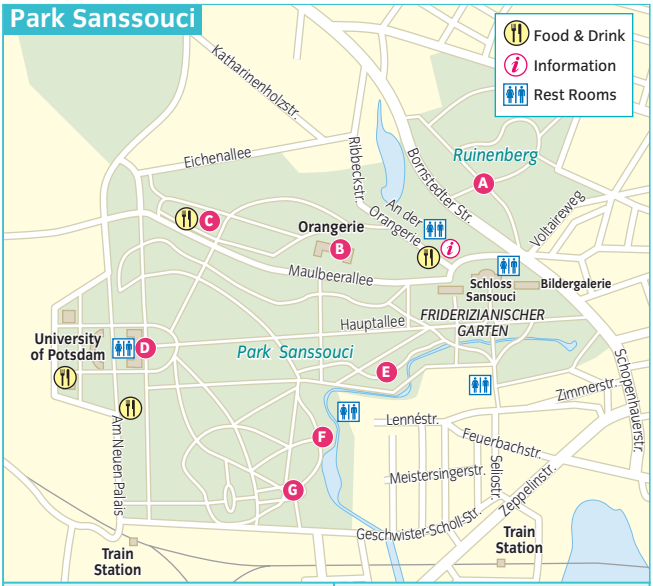
6 **La Maison du Chocolat.** On warm days, the terrace here is the best place to enjoy the Holländisches Viertel's Dutch ambiance. The old-world café is famed for its smooth hot chocolate and ***tarte aux pommes***. ***Benkertstrasse 20. ☎ 0331-237-07-30. $–$$.***

7 ★★ kids **Neuer Garten.** This serene park hugs the banks of reed-fringed Heiliger See, a haven for wild birds. Although swimming is forbidden, I occasionally spot plucky locals taking a dip. The gardens were laid out in 1787 in English landscape style with mature oaks and broad avenues. Seek out the Marmorpalais on the west bank, a fanciful redbrick and white marble confection built for King Friedrich Wilhelm II in 1787. Farther north stands Schloss Cecilienhof, an English mock-Tudor manor built in 1917 with half-timbering, creeping vines, and a red-tiled roof. This is where the Potsdam Agreement was signed in 1945, dividing post-war Germany into four occupied zones. ***1 hr.***

8 ★★★ **Schloss Sanssouci.** King Friedrich II of Prussia's whimsical summer palace is Potsdam's biggest visitor draw. Perched above terraced vineyards, the rococo creation was built in 1747 by Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff as an escape for Friedrich from his courtly functions. The façade is graced with slender Corinthian columns and reliefs depicting the Roman god of wine Bacchus. I love the far-reaching vistas over Potsdam from the gazebos and courtyard speckled with Roman-style statues. A 40-minute guided tour (in German only) takes in state rooms such as the oval Marmorsaal, adorned with Tuscan Carrara marble and gold swirls, where the king entertained French philosopher Voltaire. The bookcases in the cedarwood library are lined with the leather-bound books of Greek and Roman academics. Back outside, a wander through terraced vineyards takes you to the 18m-high Great Fountain, for picture-postcard views of the palace. Don't forget your camera. ***1 hr. Maulbeerallee. ☎ 0331-969-41-90. www.spsg.de. Admission 8€ adults, 5€ concessions. Apr–Oct Tues–Sun 9am–5pm; Nov–Mar to 4pm.***

9 ★★ **Bildergalerie.** Practically an extension of Schloss Sanssouci, this picture gallery's unassuming façade belies a sumptuous marble and gold interior. It harbors a magnificent collection of Old Master paintings, including works by baroque notable Peter Paul Rubens (1577–1640), errant Italian genius Caravaggio (1571–1610), and Flemish portrait artist Anthony van Dyck (1599–1641). ***45 min. Park Sanssouci 4. ☎ 0331-969-41-81. Admission 3€ adults, 2.50€ concessions. May–Oct Tues–Sun 10am–5pm.***

10 ★★★ kids **Park Sanssouci.** Thinking that hunting was barbaric and unworthy of a king, Frederick introduced elements of fantasy and intrigue into his baroque backyard.

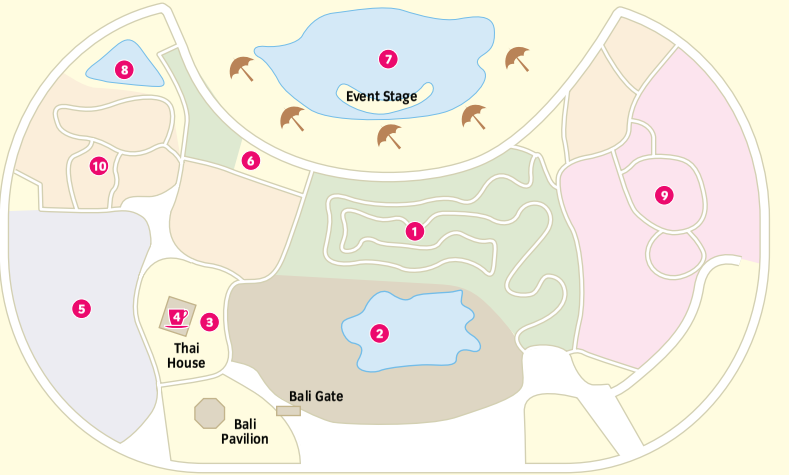


First up is the 19th-century Ⓐ **Sizilianischer Garten** (Sicilian Garden), where you wander past myrtles and laurels to the Italian Renaissance-inspired Ⓑ **Orangerie** (1864). Take time to appreciate the villa's towers and arcades. Inside, the crowd-pullers are 50 copies of paintings by Italian Renaissance master Raphael Sanzio (1483–1520). Soon you're drawn to the dragons that crown the pagoda-style Ⓒ **Drachenhaus** (1770), now housing a restaurant. Head along the tree-fringed Hauptallee to the Prussian Ⓓ **Neues Palais**, a baroque palace embellished with a monumental cupola; being a modest fellow, Friedrich favored his smaller pad, Schloss Sanssouci. Equally enchanting is Johann Gottfried Büring's Ⓔ **Chinesisches Teehaus** (1764), an exquisite turquoise pavilion graced with life-sized gold figurines sipping tea and merrymaking. Farther south are Karl Friedrich Schinkel's Ⓕ **Römische Bäder** (1829), which recall a 15th-century Italian country house with an open arcade and bathhouse. Nearby Ⓖ **Schloss Charlottenhof** (1829) is modeled on a Roman villa. 🕘 ***1½ hr. Admission free to gardens; day pass covering all attractions including Schloss Sanssouci and Bildergalerie 15€ adults, 10€ concessions.***

⓫ kids **Luisenplatz.** When the weather is fine and locals gather by the fountain, this buzzing square has an almost Mediterranean feel. It's overshadowed by the triumphal arch of Brandenburger Tor built in 1770 by Karl von Gontard and Georg Christian Unger. On the other side of the gate is Brandenburger Strasse, a pedestrianized thoroughfare fringed by high-street shops and al fresco cafés. From here, the station to take you back to Berlin is just a 10-minute stroll. Trains leave every 10 minutes or so. 🕘 ***15 min.***

Tropical Islands

1. Rainforest
2. Bali Lagoon
3. Tropical Village
4. Jabarimba
5. Tropino Club
6. Balloon
7. South Sea
8. Waterslide Tower
9. Wellness Landscape
10. Rainforest Camp



Like a space-age sea slug it rises above the pine-wooded Spreewald, 60km south of Berlin. It's colossal. It's surreal. It's the world's highest free-standing hall, originally intended as a Zeppelin hangar, an idea that never took flight. Throw in a rainforest, lagoons, and beaches and you have Tropical Islands: a huge indoor resort to beat Berlin's winter blues. When temperatures plummet subzero, Berliners flock to this former airbase to sip margaritas under the palms and camp in teepees. START: **Train to Brand (Niederlausitz).**

1 ★★ kids Rainforest. At the heart of Tropical Islands is the world's largest indoor rainforest, opened in late 2004 and nurturing more than 20,000 trees. Veer right after the entrance onto a 1km trail that twists past lush banana and jackfruit trees, coffee bushes, and carnivorous plants. It's quite something to find yourself under a canopy of palms and ferns, where crickets chirp and flowers scent the air. Take note of rare orchid species and fragrant ylang-ylang trees. The footpath emerges at a mangrove swamp, featuring a cascading waterfall and (real) turtles dozing on the rocks.

2 ★ Bali Lagoon. The sugar-white sands and 32°C (90°F) waters at this themed lagoon quickly transport you to Bali. Bathers can drift in a kidney-shaped pool, duck under waterfalls streaking the cliff faces, or catch rays on the beach. And yes, you do need to slap on the sunscreen, because UV rays penetrate the transparent foil roof. Then let whirlpools, bubble-jet loungers, and a lazy river pummel you into relaxation.

Relax under the waterfalls in the 32°C Bali Lagoon.

3 kids Tropical Village. The village is the resort's main shopping and dining drag. Passing through a Balinese temple gate brings you to a re-created Thai teak house (fashioned by Ladda Teijavnaija, architect to the Thai royals), a thatched Samoan fale, and a Borneo longhouse. You can also find snack bars and restaurants, serving everything from crêpes to Thai curry.

4 Jabarimba. This international restaurant inside the teak house is your best bet for a tropical barbecue lunch. Choose steak or fresh fish, pick a marinade, and watch it sizzle on a hot stone. DJs spin tunes in the cocktail lounge after dark. *$$.*

5 kids Tropino Club. The Jolly Roger flies at this kids club, where tots can play freely on the pirate ship and gigantic climbing frames, shoot foam balls, and zip around the go-kart track. Occasionally Urmel the dragon makes an appearance. Children under three must be accompanied by an adult. *Entry 3.50€ per day.*

6 kids Balloon. Ride high in this tethered helium balloon to get an

Practical Matters

Tropical Islands is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Entry costs 24.50€ for adults and 19.50€ for children under 14; it's free to crash on a sunlounger and, in theory, you can stay as long as you like. Visitors are issued with a chip wristband, which can be used to pay for treatments and snacks. Settle your account when you leave; major credit cards accepted include American Express, Mastercard, and Visa. Trains depart roughly every hour from Berlin Hauptbahnhof to Brand (Niederlausitz); the journey takes 55 minutes and costs €7.50. From here there are free shuttle buses. For more information, contact Tropical Islands on ☎ 0354-77-60-50-50 or see www.tropical-islands.de.

idea of Tropical Islands' vast scale—it's 360m long, 210m wide, and 107m high (the Statue of Liberty could stand upright inside). The 60m ascent allows passengers to appreciate the dome and get a bird's-eye view across the rainforest and lagoons. ***Experience lasts around 10 min. 12€ per person.***

7 ★★★ kids South Sea. The dimensions of this indoor ocean are head-spinning. An enormous cloudy sky recalling ***The Truman Show*** (you play Jim Carrey) forms a surreal backdrop to a sea the size of four Olympic swimming pools. The azure 28°C water here is slightly cooler than the lagoon, so better for swimming laps. Kids can splash in the adjacent shallow pool or build sandcastles on the beach. Acrobats, magicians, and dancers entertain the crowds nightly on Wayang stage after dark.

8 kids Waterslide Tower. This trio of waterslides is strictly for thrill-seekers. Scariest is the white-knuckle Blue Slide, Germany's highest at 25m where you might pick up speeds of 70km/h. ***Entry 3€ per day.***

9 ★★★ Wellness Landscape. You need to leave your modesty behind to get into this nudist-only wellness area. It's worth the blushes to steam in the natural earth sauna of the basalt Alcantara Canyon, inhale herbal aromas in the Jungle Village, and then head over to the temple-like mist cavern at Angkor Wat. The Elefanta Temple is based on Mumbai's famous caves and offers a Ganges foot spa, Ayurvedic treatments, and a sauna glittering with amethyst and rose quartz. Waiotapu recreates New Zealand's thermal landscape with soothing geysers and hot springs. ***Entry an additional 6.50€ not including treatments.***

10 ★ kids Rainforest Camp. Feel like spending the night in this indoor jungle? If you want more comfort than a lounger on the beach, their palm-fringed campsite makes the best base. Teepees are equipped with mattresses, sheets, and pillows, and guests can use the shared shower blocks. Booking ahead is essential. ***Overnight stay 23.50€ per person.***

The **Savvy Traveler**

Before You Go

Government Tourist Offices

For pre-travel enquiries, contact **Berlin Tourismus Marketing GmbH** (Am Karlsbad 11; ☎ 030-26-47-48-0; www.berlin-tourist-information.de). Their website has information in English to help plan your stay. Order maps and brochures online. Their **call center** (☎ 030-250-025) deals with accommodation bookings.

German National Tourist Offices: In the US: 122 East 42nd Street, Suite 2000, New York, NY 10168-0072 (☎ 212/661-7200; www.cometogermany.com). **In Canada**: 480 University Avenue, Suite 1500, Toronto, ON M5G 1V2 (☎ 416/968-1685). **In the UK**: PO Box 2695, London W1A 3TN (☎ 020/317-09-08; www.germany-tourism.co.uk).

The Best Times to Go

Berlin wears every season well, but **May** through **August** are the most popular, when the weather warms and locals flock to the city's gardens, lidos, and beaches. Even in peak months, temperatures rarely exceed 30°C (86°F). Summer is also best for music festivals, open-air screenings, and beer garden jaunts, though beds can be scarce so book well ahead. **September** and **October** are cooler and quieter—with fewer crowds, a final burst of fall color, and reductions on hotels and airfares up for grabs. **November**'s great cultural line-up enlivens the dull onset of winter. Although **December** can be bitingly cold, it offers winter warmers at its **Christmas** markets. Wintry weather continues through to March, with the thermometer often dipping below freezing in **January** and **February**.

Festivals & Special Events

SPRING. Classical music lovers descend on Berlin for the nine-day **MaerzMusik** festival (www.berlinerfestspiele.de) in March, staging contemporary orchestral and chamber works, including several premières. The immensely popular **Festtage (Festival Days)** strike a chord at Easter with gala concerts and operas at Staatsoper Unter den Linden. The small but innovative **Britspotting** festival (www.britspotting.de) lures fans of British independent film in April. May 1 means **May Day** rallies, particularly in the Kreuzberg and Prenzlauer Berg districts. Rioting is not uncommon, so it's wise to give these neighborhoods a wide berth. Kreuzberg celebrates the **Carnival of Cultures** (www.karneval-berlin.de; p 72) in May with parades, club nights, and plenty of hip-wiggling in the streets.

SUMMER. Feel the pride at the **Christopher Street Day** parade (www.csd-berlin.de) in June, when gay and lesbian revelers turn out for a flamboyant street party between Kurfürstendamm and Siegessäule. Watch romantic flicks and big screen classics under the stars at Kreuzberg's **Open-air Cinema** (www.freiluftkino-kreuzberg.de) from May to July. Following Paris' lead, Berlin leaps into summer with the free **Fête de la Musique** (www.fetedelamusique.de) in June; it's a mammoth street music festival with everything from choirs to DJs rocking the city on 60 stages. The focus switches to classical symphonies on elegant Gendarmenmarkt for **Classic Open Air Berlin** (www.classicopenair.de) in July, whereas dance takes center stage at the dynamic **Tanz im August**

BERLIN TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
Daily Temp. (°F)	34	36	41	49	58	63
Daily Temp. (°C)	1	2	5	9.5	14.5	17.5
Rainfall (in.)	3.3	3.1	3.1	2.3	3.5	4.7
Rainfall (cm)	8.4	7.9	7.9	5.8	8.9	11.9

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Daily Temp. (°F)	67	67	59	50	41	35
Daily Temp. (°C)	19.5	19.5	15	10.5	5	1.5
Rainfall (in.)	4.8	3.9	3.5	2.7	3.2	3
Rainfall (cm)	12.2	9.9	8.9	6.8	8.1	7.6

festival (www.tanzimaugust.de) in August. Berlin rivals Munich in the beer-guzzling and pretzel-munching stakes with its very own *Augustfest*—the **Berlin International Beer Festival** (www.bierfestival-berlin.de; p 23). Grab a stein to join the swaying crowds on Karl-Marx-Allee, for beer tents, live bands, and merrymaking. Need a cultural fix? Head over for the **Long Night of Museums** in August, when 100 museums and galleries fling open their doors.

FALL. September's **Berlin Literary Festival** (www.literaturfestival.com) rustles up a feast of poetry and fiction, accompanied by free concerts, readings, and screenings. Less highbrow is **Popkomm** (www.popkomm.com), a gigantic music and clubbing festival, featuring three days of electric beats and up-and-coming talent at venues across Berlin. Later in the month the **Berlin Marathon** (www.real-berlin-marathon.com) comes to town; the 42km track takes in landmarks from Siegessäule to Unter den Linden. On **Tag der Deutschen Einheit** (October 3), a huge street party celebrates German reunification with events from live music to cabaret taking place around the Reichstag and Brandenburg Gate. Shoppers enjoy a late-night spree on Ku'damm during October's **Long Night of Shopping**. As the days draw in, Berlin's **Festival of Lights** brightens up the season with dazzling projections on landmarks from Unter den Linden to Alexanderplatz. In late October, Berlin hosts **Jazz-Fest** (www.berlinerfestspiele.de), when soloists and swinging quartets hit stages across the city.

WINTER. One for the little 'uns, the **Berlin Fairytale Festival** in November welcomes authors and storytellers to Berlin. 'Tis the season to drink cinnamon-laced *Glühwein* (mulled wine), chomp on gingerbread, and get giddy on the carrousels at Berlin's **Weihnachtsmärkte** (Christmas markets) in December. Gendarmenmarkt (www.gendarmenmarktberlin.de) is particularly enchanting with a twinkling tree and traditional gifts such as hand-carved nutcrackers and toys. Acrobats, jugglers, and choirs keep shoppers amused. Twirl across the ice rink or race down the toboggan run at the glittering **Winterwelt** (www.winterwelt-berlin.de) on Potsdamer Platz from November to January. Fireworks ring in the **New Year** (http://silvester-berlin.de) with a bang at the Brandenburg Gate. A big event on the media arts calendar in January is **Transmediale** (www.transmediale.de) at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. In February, film buffs are glued to

big screens, as the **Berlinale** (www.berlinale.de) draws the cream of the cinematic world to Berlin.

The Weather

Part of Berlin's year-round appeal is its continental climate, characterized by cool winters and warm (but not stiflingly hot) summers. In spring, temperatures hit highs of around 18°C (64°F). Summer spells sunshine and temperatures hovering around 25°C (77°F), which means air conditioning in hotel rooms is a luxury rather than a necessity. Berlin's parks are ablaze with fall color in September and October, but expect chillier days (2–10°C [35–50°F]). Winters are cold, particularly when an icy wind blows from Russia, with temperatures often plummeting below freezing from December to February. Whichever season you choose, pack layers because Berlin's weather can be fickle and showers spontaneous, even in midsummer.

Useful Websites

www.berlin.de: Comprehensive information about Berlin, including culture, transport, and politics.
www.berlin.info: English language site on Berlin; themes stretch from arts and culture to food and drink.
www.bvg.de: Berlin's official public transport site with timetables, routes, maps, and an online journey planner.
www.bahn.co.uk: Deutsche Bahn (German Rail) site for routes, schedules, and ticket booking.

Cell (Mobile) Phones

Mobile or cell phones are referred to locally as *handys*. Like the rest of Europe, Berlin operates on the GSM 900/1800 network, compatible with Australian and other World Phones. Call your operator to activate roaming and ensure the international call bar is unlocked. Check charges because they can be high. If your cell phone doesn't work in Germany, invest in a local GSM phone with a prepaid SIM card (around 20€–30€ total) for affordable calling rates. A central store is **Vodafone** (Potsdamer Strasse 7; ☎ 030-25-29-23-02; www.vodafone.de). North Americans can rent a GSM phone before leaving home from **InTouch USA** (☎ 800/872-7626; www.intouchglobal.com) or **RoadPost** (☎ 888/290-1606 or 905/272-5665; www.roadpost.com).

Car Rentals

Driving in Berlin is hassle-free compared with other European cities of similar size. If you're staying in the center, however, it's quicker and easier to get around using the speedy public transport network. All major international car-rental companies operate here, with branches at the airports, Hauptbahnhof, and in the center. Among them are **Avis** (☎ 800/331-1212; www.avis.com), **Hertz** (☎ 800/654-3131; www.hertz.com), and **Budget** (☎ 800/472-3325; www.budget.com). Reputable agencies include **Holiday Autos** (☎ 866/392-92-88; www.holidayautos.com) and **Auto Europe** (☎ 800/223-55-55; www.autoeurope.com).

Getting **There**

By Plane

Two major airports serve Berlin: **Tegel** (TXL) and **Schönefeld** (SXF). The fate of the city's third airport, **Tempelhof** (THF), remains uncertain. See www.berlin-airport.de for

up-to-date information on all Berlin's airports, or call ☎ 0180/ 5000-186. **Tegel** airport (8km northwest of the center) serves European and long-haul destinations. Continental Airlines operate nonstop flights to Newark Liberty International Airport and Delta Airlines to JFK Airport in New York. Major European airlines serving Tegel include British Airways to London Heathrow, KLM to Amsterdam, and Air France with flights to Paris**. Buses** 128, X9, 109, and the **Jet Express TXL** depart for Berlin from stops outside the terminal every 10 minutes from 5am to 11pm. The journey takes 25 to 40 minutes; tickets cost 2.10€ and can be purchased at the BVG kiosk close to the airport exit or from the ticket machines at the bus station. Validate your ticket by stamping it in the machine on the bus. A **taxi** ride will set you back around 20€; taxis depart from ranks outside the terminal.

Schönefeld airport (18km southeast of the center) connects with destinations across Europe, Asia, and Africa, and is served by easyJet, Ryanair, and Germanwings. A regular **S-Bahn** service (S45 and S9) departs from the airport and takes roughly 45 minutes to reach central Berlin. Alternatively take the **Airport Express** train, departing every half-hour and taking 28 minutes to reach Hauptbahnhof, stopping en route at Ostbahnhof, Alexanderplatz, and Friedrichstrasse. Tickets for either service cost 2.10€ and can be purchased from the machines on the platforms. Expect to pay around 30€ for the 35-minute **taxi** journey into town.

By Car

The **A10** highway orbits the city, linking Berlin to the rest of Germany and Europe. The **A11** leads northeast to Szczecin in Poland and the **A13** drops south to Dresden. Hop on the **A9** highway for major German cities farther south of Berlin including Leipzig, Bayreuth, Nuremberg, and Munich. The **A2** leads west to Hanover and the **A24** northwest to Hamburg. On the ring road, look out for signs into central Berlin: take the **A115** for the west, the **A113** for the southeast, and the **A114** for the north of the city. German highways are speed limit-free unless otherwise indicated, but you should watch your speed in built-up areas, because there's usually a 30km/h or 50km/h limit.

By Train

National and international trains—including InterCityExpress, InterCity, EuroCity, and InterRegio—chug into sparkling new **Hauptbahnhof**, Europaplatz (☎ 118-61). Berlin's ultramodern central station, which reopened in 2006 following a slick makeover, links long-distance trains with local S-Bahn and U-Bahn services. **Deutsche Bahn** (DB) is Germany's state-owned railway company. For comprehensive information on routes, timetables, fares, and ticket booking, see their English-language website (www.bahn.co.uk). Tickets can also by booked by calling their hotline (☎ 08718/ 80-80-66).

By Bus

Most long-distance buses pull into the **Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof/ ZOB** (Masurenallee 4–6; ☎ 030-302-53-61), opposite the Funkturm in Charlottenburg. The station links Berlin to 350 destinations across Germany and Europe. Companies operating to/from here include **Eurolines** (www.eurolines.com), **EuroTouring** (www.eurotouring.de), and **BerlinLinienBus** (www.berlinlinienbus.de).

Getting **Around**

By S-Bahn

Speedy and efficient, **S-Bahn** suburban trains (☎ 030-29-74-33-33; www.s-bahn-berlin.de) are one of the most enjoyable ways to explore Berlin and its suburbs. The service comprises 15 routes, which feed into three main lines: the east-west *Stadtbahn*, the north-south *Nord-Süd Bahn*, and the circular *Ringbahn*. Purchase and validate your ticket at one of the red or yellow stamping machines at the platform before boarding. Berlin is divided into three **tariff zones**: AB (2.10€), BC (2.30€), and ABC (2.60€). A single AB ticket suffices for most journeys; if you're planning more than two trips, invest in a day pass (5.80€). The S-Bahn operates from 4am to 12.30am; later at weekends.

By U-Bahn

Operating on the same fare system as the S-Bahn, **U-Bahn** underground trains (☎ 030-19-44-9; www.bvg.de) are another means of getting around Berlin, though they generally stop more frequently. Nine lines run to 170 stations from 4am until midnight, later at the weekend. At peak times, services depart every 3 to 5 minutes.

By Bus

If you're not in a hurry, Berlin's **buses** can be a great way to get about and enjoy the views, especially from the upper deck; routes 100 and 200 are particularly scenic. Although services are plentiful—150 day and 54 night routes—they can be painfully slow during rush hour. Ticket prices are the same as those for the S-Bahn and U-Bahn. Download routes from www.bvg.de or for information call ☎ 030-19-44-9.

By Taxi

Taxis wait outside major hotels, stations, and airports round the clock. Most drivers speak some English. There is a minimum fare of 2.50€, plus 1.50€ per kilometer. Reputable companies include **TaxiFunk Berlin GmbH** (☎ 030-44-33-22) and **Funk Taxi Berlin** (☎ 030-26-10-26). Note that fares may be higher when roads are busy.

By Car

Once in central Berlin, there's little need for a **car**; it's cheaper, quicker, and more carbon friendly to use the excellent public transport network, even for daytrips to Wannsee (p 100) and Potsdam (p 156) (by S-Bahn). If you are driving, however, you'll find Berlin easy to navigate thanks to clear signage and the ring road. Pay-and-display parking costs around 2€ per hour from 9am to 6pm or 8pm. Few machines accept credit cards, so have some change handy. Clearly display your ticket on the dash.

If you're staying for more than a few days, make use of Berlin's free **park and ride** service (www.vbbonline.de). These unsupervised car parks are connected to the center by S-Bahn or U-Bahn.

By Bicycle

Berlin's terrific network of **cycling** trails makes pedal-pushing popular. Bikes are a fun, eco-friendly way of exploring the sights. Most S-Bahn and U-Bahn trains have a dedicated compartment, but you need to buy a reduced single fare ticket for your bike. To hire your own set of reliable wheels, check out **Fat Tire Bike Tours** (see p 61). **Fahrradstation** (☎ 0180-510-80-00; www.fahrradstation.com) is another option with

five outlets in the city. Expect to pay 10€–30€ per day. The Deutsche Bahn **call a bike** service (☎ 0700-05-22-55-22; www.callabike.de) is convenient. Simply dial the number to receive a code that unlocks the bike. Rates are 0.08€ per minute and 15€ for 24 hours.

On Foot

Berlin's parks, squares, and waterways make **walking** a pleasure, especially in Tiergarten, Unter den Linden, and the pedestrianized streets of the Nikolaiviertel. A leisurely stroll along the River Spree or Landwehrkanal is an excellent (and free) way of keeping fit and seeing the sights. If you want to cover more ground or your time is limited, cycling may be a better option.

Fast **Facts**

Apartment Rentals Check out www.all-berlin-apartments.com, www.ferienwohnung-24-berlin.com, and www.apartmentsapart.com for modern holiday apartments and flats in Berlin, which are often remarkably good value for longer stays.

ATMs/Cashpoints There are plenty of ATMs for withdrawing cash 24/7. Maestro, Cirrus, and Visa cards are widely accepted, but be aware that your bank may charge a fee for the service. You can exchange currency at banks, post offices, or EuroChange/Travelex offices at airports, Hauptbahnhof, and in Alexanderplatz.

Banking Hours Banks open 8:30am–4pm Monday through Friday. Office hours are usually Monday–Thursday from 8 or 9am to 5 or 6pm; many close at midday on Friday. Most major department stores open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 8pm, plus six Sundays throughout the year.

Consulates and Embassies **U.S. Embassy**, Neustädtische Kirchstrasse 4–5 (☎ 030-238-51-74); **Canadian Embassy**, Leipziger Platz 17 (☎ 030-20-31-20); **British Embassy**, Wilhelmstrasse 70–71 (☎ 030-20-45-70); **Australian Embassy**, Wallstrasse 76–79 (☎ 030-88-00-880); **New Zealand Embassy**, Friedrichstrasse 60 (☎ 030-20-62-10); **Irish Embassy**, Friedrichstrasse 200 (☎ 030-22-07-20).

Doctors Call ☎ 01804-22-55-23-62 to find an English-speaking doctor. The Yellow Pages lists medical specialists.

Electricity Germany uses 230 volts AC (50 cycles). European two-pin plugs are standard.

Emergencies For ambulance or fire service, dial ☎ 112. See "Doctors," above, and "Police," below.

Gay and Lesbian Travelers Liberal Berlin makes no secret of being one of the gay capitals of the world. The city is a magnet to the international gay (*schwul*) and lesbian (*lesbisch*) community, with an unrivaled nightlife scene in its bars and clubs. If you need proof that Berlin embraces homosexuality, look no further than the city's openly gay mayor Klaus Wowereit, or the Christopher Street Day parade (p 164). Resources for gay travelers include ***www.gayberlin.info*** and ***www.out-in-berlin.com***, with information in English.

Holidays German public holidays include: January 1 (New Year's Day),

January 6 (Epiphany), March/April (Good Friday and Easter Monday), May 1 (May Day), May (Ascension), May/June (Whit Monday and Corpus Christi), August 15 (Assumption), October 3 (German Unity Day), October 31 (Reformation Day), November 1 (All Saints' Day), November (Repentance Day), December 8 (Feast of the Immaculate Conception), December 25 (Christmas Day), and December 26 (St. Stephen's Day).

Insurance With a valid **European Health Insurance Card** (EHIC), EU citizens receive free or reduced-cost emergency health care in Germany. All travelers should have an adequate insurance policy before visiting, which covers cancellation, lost luggage, and car rental insurance. Try the following in the U.S.: **Access America** (☎ 866/807-3982; www.accessamerica.com); **Travel Guard International** (☎ 800/826-4919; www.travelguard.com); **Travel Insured International** (☎ 800/243-3174; www.travelinsured.com); and **Travelex Insurance Services** (☎ 888/457-4602; www.travelex-insurance.com). In the U.K., try **MoneySupermarket** (☎ 0845/345-5708; www.moneysupermarket.com).

For additional medical insurance, contact **MEDEX Assistance** (☎ 410/453-6300; www.medexassist.com) or **Travel Assistance International** (☎ 800/821-2828; www.travelassistance.com).

Internet Internet cafés are ubiquitous and a growing number of cafés, bars, and hotels now offer Wi-Fi (sometimes free to customers). **EasyEverything** cafés dotted across the city include Karl-Marx-Strasse 78, Alexanderplatz, and Kurfürstendamm 224; check ***www.easyeverything.com*** for more locations. The **Sony Center** is a free Wi-Fi hotspot.

Lost Property If your wallet has been lost or stolen, call your credit card company immediately and file a report at the nearest police station. There's one near Alexanderplatz (Keibelstrasse 32; ☎ 030-4664-332-700).

Visa's toll-free emergency number in the U.S. is ☎ 800/847-2911, or 0800-811-8440 in Germany. **American Express** cardholders and traveler's check holders should call ☎ 800/221-7282 in the U.S., or 069-97-97-4000 in Germany. **MasterCard** holders should call ☎ 800/307-7309 in the U.S., or 0800-819-1040 in Germany.

Mail and Postage Deutsche Post (☎ 0180-233-33; www.deutschepost.de) provide postal services in Germany. Post offices are identified by a yellow sign with a black horn. Most open from 8:30am–6:30pm Monday through Friday, and Saturday 8:30am–12pm. Central branches include Chausseestrasse 25, Europaplatz, and Joachimstaler Strasse 7.

Here are the prices for stamps: postcard 0.65€ in Europe,1€ worldwide; standard letter under 20g 0.70€ in Europe, 1.70€ worldwide; letter under 50g 1€ in Europe, 2€ worldwide.

Money Germany's currency is the **euro.** At the time of writing, the exchange rate was approximately 1€ = $1.20 (or 0.83£). For up-to-date rates, check the currency converter website ***www.xe.com***.

Passports & Visas EU, U.S., Canadian, and Australian visitors must have a valid passport to enter Germany, but don't require a visa for stays of less than 90 days. It's advisable to keep a separate photocopy of your passport. If your passport is lost or stolen, contact your embassy (see "Consulates & Embassies," above).

Pharmacies Pharmacies *(Apotheken)* operate during normal business hours and post details of the nearest 24-hour pharmacy; at least one per district stays open all night. Central pharmacies include **Apotheke Bären**, Friedrichstrasse 60 (☎ 030-20-16-61-73) and **Apotheke Berlin Hauptbahnhof** (☎ 030-20-61-41-90). Call ☎ 01189 for the emergency pharmacy service. The website ***www.berlin.de*** lists pharmacies by district.

Police The national police emergency number is ☎ 110. For local police, dial ☎ 030-46-64 46-64.

Safety Overall, Berlin is a safe city. The usual commonsense rules apply: keep an eye on your possessions in crowded tourist areas and don't walk alone at night. Pickpockets operate on the U-Bahn, so have your wits about you. You can alert the stationmaster by pushing the emergency "SOS" button. Though rare, extreme right-wing groups can turn violent towards people they consider "foreign". This is more prevalent in former East Berlin districts such as Lichtenberg and Marzahn-Hellersdorf.

Sales tax and VAT See "Taxes", below.

Senior Travelers Mention that you are a senior when making bookings and reservations. As in most German cities, people over the age of 65 qualify for reduced admission (20–50%) to theaters, museums, and on public transport. You may be asked to show ID.

Smoking The ***Nichtraucherschutzgesetz*** (Non-Smokers' Protection Law) introduced in January 2008 means Berlin is officially a smoke-free city. Smoking is banned in public places including transport, offices, hospitals, bars, restaurants, and clubs.

Taxes Sales tax, Value added tax (VAT), or ***Mehrwertsteuer*** (MwSt) in German, ranges from 7% to 19%. Food and necessities are taxed at 7%, luxury goods (jewelry, tobacco, liquors) at 19%. Non-EU residents are entitled to a refund of the 19% MwSt tax if goods are exported within three months of purchase. The store provides you with forms, which you should have stamped at Customs on departure. For further details see ***www.globalrefund.com***.

Telephones Call ☎ 11837 for national and ☎ 11834 for international directory enquiries. If you're making an international call, dial ☎ 00, wait for the tone, and dial the country code, area code, and number. To make a local call, dial the three-digit city prefix (**030** in Berlin), followed by the number.

Tipping Restaurants add a service charge to the bill. If you are satisfied, a tip of 5% to 10% is standard on top of the service charge. Round up the bill to the nearest euro if it's just a coffee or snack. It's customary to tip your waiter/waitress when settling the bill, not by leaving money on the table. Tip hotel porters and doormen 1€ and maids about the same per day. A 10% tip is normal for taxi drivers. Keep spare change handy for washroom attendants.

Toilets Berlin has a number of clean public toilets, many of them automatic and wheelchair-accessible. You need around 0.50€ to unlock the door.

Tourist Information The multilingual staff at **BERLIN infostores** can provide information on sightseeing, help with ticket and tour bookings, and make hotel reservations. Central tourist offices include those at **Hauptbahnhof** (Europaplatz), open daily 8am to 10pm, the **Brandenburg Gate** (Pariser Platz), open daily 10am to 6pm, and the **Neues Kranzler Eck** (Kurfürstendamm 21), open Monday

through Saturday 10am–8pm and Sunday 10am–6pm.

Travelers With Disabilities Berlin is constantly improving public buildings to cater for *Behinderte* (people with disabilities). Many modern hotels, attractions, and restaurants are now wheelchair-friendly; some display a yellow ***Berlin barrierefrei*** (barrier-free Berlin) sign. Public transport network maps pinpoint stations equipped with ramps or elevators for easy access to the platforms. **Mobidat** (☎ 030-74-77-71-12; www.mobidat.net) has comprehensive information on accessible buildings and facilities in Berlin. A 24-hour hotline provides a **Wheelchair breakdown** service (☎ 0180-111-47-47). Deutsche Bahn offers an excellent service for travelers with special needs, including a 50% reduction on tickets and staff to assist at stations; for details contact the **Mobility Service Center** (☎ 0180-551-25-12; www.bahn.de). **Access-Able Travel Source** (☎ 303-232-2979; www.access-able.com) has access information for people traveling to Berlin.

Berlin: **A Brief History**

1237 Cölln, Berlin's sister town, is first mentioned in writing. The two cities merge for political and security reasons in 1307 and continue their rapid development.

1244 Berlin is founded as a trading post.

1307 Berlin and Cölln are united politically to form modern Berlin.

1415 Berlin comes under the rule of the Hohenzollern dynasty, the ruling house of Brandenburg-Prussia, which held sway until 1918. Friedrich I becomes the Elector of the Margraviate of Brandenburg, which he rules until 1440.

1451 Berlin becomes the royal residence of the Brandenburg electors and renounces its status as a free Hanseatic city.

1539 Berlin embraces Lutheran (Protestant) religious reform.

1576 Bubonic plague claims around 4,000 victims in Berlin.

1618–48 The Thirty Years' War reaps havoc. Berlin loses half its population in bloody religious and political feuds; the city is left devastated.

1647 Unter den Linden boulevard is constructed and planted with lime trees, on the orders of Frederick William of Brandenburg, to link Tiergarten to the Prussian palace (Schloss Hohenzollern).

1685 Edict of Potsdam. Frederick William gives the Calvinist Huguenots free passage to Brandenburg-Prussia following their expulsion from France. More than 6,000 settle in Berlin.

1695–99 Schloss Charlottenburg is built as a summer palace for Sophie Charlotte, the wife of Friedrich III, Elector of Brandenburg.

1701 The Elector Friedrich III is crowned king. Berlin becomes the capital of the Kingdom of Prussia. His grand plans include extending Schloss Charlottenburg in the style of the Palace of Versailles, outside Paris.

1740–86 Berlin flourishes as a center of the Enlightenment under Friedrich II of Prussia. He

redesigns the city together with his favorite architect, Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff; notable landmarks include Schloss Sanssouci.

1806–08 French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte conquers Berlin, but grants the city self-government.

1810 The Humboldt University is founded by the Prussian educational reformer and linguist Wilhelm von Humboldt, a close friend of German writer Johann Wolfgang Goethe and German poet, philosopher, and dramatist Friedrich Schiller.

1871 The Industrial Revolution powers Berlin to global pre-eminence; its economy and population swell. In 1871, Berlin becomes capital of the Deutsches Reich (German Empire).

1884 The construction of the Reichstag (German Parliament) begins.

1900 Berlin's population soars to almost two million.

1914–18 World War I. Positive reactions to the war in Berlin are short lived. By the winter of 1916–17, thousands of Berliners are dependent on food aid.

1918 Military defeat in World War I and social revolution prepare the ground for the Weimar Republic, proclaimed on November 9 in Berlin. A period of political instability and inflation ensue.

1920–29 Despite economic depression, Berlin crackles with creativity during the Roaring Twenties. Cabaret, jazz, theatre, and nightlife bloom.

1933 On February 27, the Reichstag is set on fire. The following day, Hitler asks for the Reichstag Fire Decree to be signed into law, which leads to the suspension of civil liberties and enables the suppression of thousands of communists and other Nazi opponents. As a result, the Nazis are able to increase their share of the vote (52%) in the elections on March 5. In December, Dutchman and communist Marinus van der Lubbe is convicted of arson and treason, and is beheaded the following month in Leipzig.

1936 Berlin hosts the Summer Olympic Games. The Nazi regime promotes the Aryan master race ideology. African-American track-and-field athlete Jesse Owens wins gold medals in the 100 meters, 200 meters, long jump, and 4x100 meter relay.

1938 On November 9, Jewish property and synagogues are burnt or destroyed during Kristallnacht (Night of the Broken Glass). Thousands of Jews from Berlin and the rest of Germany are incarcerated in concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen.

1939 Britain and France declare war on Germany.

1942 Nazi leaders convene to draft the "Final Solution" at Wannsee. This horrific plan to exterminate the Jewish people leads to the torture and murder of millions.

1945 On April 30, a defeated Hitler commits suicide together with his wife Eva Braun in his bunker underneath the Reich Chancellery on Wilhelmstrasse.

1945 On May 8, World War II officially ends. Berlin is divided into four occupation zones by Britain, France, the U.S., and U.S.S.R.

1948 Berlin is divided into the FGR (U.S., French, and British zones) in the West and the GDR (Soviet zone) in the communist East.

1949 The U.S.S.R. sees the introduction of the Deutschmark as a breach of the Potsdam Agreement. They retaliate with the Berlin Blockade, the first major crisis of the Cold War. The allies respond with the Berlin Airlift, which delivers supplies to West Berlin.

1949 The capital of West Germany is moved from Berlin to Bonn.

1950 Stasi, Ministry for State Security and infamous spying agency, is created in the GDR. Its headquarters are located in East Berlin between Frankfurter Allee, Ruschestrasse, Normannenstrasse, and Magdalenenstrasse in Berlin-Lichtenberg.

1961 The emigration of young, skilled East Germans to the West strains the GDR economy. The Berlin Wall is built with Soviet consent.

1963 On June 26, United States President John F. Kennedy visits West Berlin and gives a speech (p 55) on Rudolph Wilde Platz in which he famously claims "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a citizen of Berlin"). Shortly after his death in November 1963, the square is renamed John-F.-Kennedy-Platz.

1967 Berlin is twinned with Los Angeles, California.

1987 On June 12, President Ronald Reagan speaks in front of the Brandenburg Gate and challenges Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down" the Berlin Wall.

1989 On November 9, Berliners celebrate the fall of the Wall.

1990 On October 3, East and West Germany are reunited, ending 45 years of Cold War division. German reunification is often referred to as **Die Wende** (the change).

1991 Berlin is again capital of a reunified Germany.

2005 A grand coalition of the CDU–CSU (center-right Christian Democrats) and SPD (center-left Social Democrats) is elected. Angela Merkel becomes Germany's first woman chancellor.

2006 Berlin hosts the final of the FIFA Football World Cup at its Olympic Stadium. Italy beats France on penalties.

Useful Phrases & Menu Terms

Useful Words & Phrases

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
Good day	**Guten Tag**	*goo-ten taag*
How are you?	**Wie geht es Ihnen?**	*vee gait es ee-nen*
Very well	**Sehr gut**	*zair goot*
Thank you	**Danke**	***dan**-ke*
You're welcome	**Bitte sehr**	*bi-te zair*
Goodbye	**Auf Wiedersehen**	*owf vee-der-zain*
Please	**Bitte**	*bi-te*
Yes	**Ja**	*yah*
No	**Nein**	*nain*
Excuse me/sorry	**Entschuldigung**	*ent-shool-di-gung*
Where is/are. . .?	**Wo ist/sind. . .?**	*voh ist/zint*
Left	**Links**	*links*

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
Right	Rechts	*rekhts*
Straight on	Geradeaus	*ge-raa-de-ows*
I would like. . .	Ich hätte gerne	*ish he-te ger-ne*
I want. . .	Ich möchte	*ish mer-shte*
Do you have a. . .?	Haben Sie ein. . .?	*hah-ben zee ain*
How much is it?	Wie viel kostet es?	*vee feel kos-tet es*
When?	Wann?	*van*
What?	Was?	*vas*
There is (Is there. . .?)	Es gibt (. . .gibt es?)	*es gibt (. . .gibt es)*
What is there?	Was gibt es?	*vas gibt es*
Yesterday	Gestern	*ges-tern*
Today	Heute	*hoi-te*
Tomorrow	Morgen	*mor-gen*
Good	Gut	*goot*
Bad	Schlecht	*shlesht*
Better	Besser	*be-ser*
More	Mehr	*mair*
Less	Weniger	*vay-niger*
Do you speak English?	Sprechen Sie Englisch?	*shpre-khen zee eng-lish*
I speak German	Ich spreche Deutsch	*ish shpre-khe doitch*
I don't understand	Ich verstehe nicht	*ish fer-shtaia nisht*
What is the time?	Wie viel Uhr ist es?	*vee feel oor ist es*
The bill please	die Rechnung bitte	*die resh-nung bi-te*
The station	der Bahnhof	*dair baan-hof*
A hotel	ein Hotel	*ain ho-tel*
The market	der Markt	*dair mahrkt*
A restaurant	ein Restaurant	*ain res-tow-ron*
A toilet	eine Toilette	*ai-ne twa-le-te*
A bank	eine Bank	*ai-ne bank*
A pharmacy	eine Apotheke	*ai-ne a-po-tay-ke*
Doctor	ein Arzt	*ain artst*
I'm looking for. . .	Ich suche	*ish zoo-khe*

Numbers

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
1	eins	*(aints)*
2	zwei	*(tsvai)*
3	drei	*(drai)*
4	vier	*(feer)*
5	fünf	*(foonf)*
6	sechs	*(zeks)*
7	sieben	*(zee-ben)*
8	acht	*(akht)*
9	neun	*(noin)*
10	zehn	*(tsen)*
11	elf	*(elf)*
12	zwölf	*(tsverlf)*
13	dreizehn	*(drai-tsen)*
14	vierzehn	*(feer-tsen)*
15	fünfzehn	*(foonf-tsen)*
16	sechzehn	*(zek-tsen)*

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
17	siebzehn	*(zeeb-tsen)*
18	achtzehn	*(akh-tsen)*
19	neunzehn	*(noin-tsen)*
20	zwanzig	*(tsvan-tsig)*
30	dreissig	*(drai-tsig)*
40	vierzig	*(feer-tsig)*
50	fünfzig	*(foonf-tsig)*
60	sechzig	*(zek-tsig)*
70	siebzig	*(zeeb-tsig)*
80	achtzig	*(akh-tsig)*
90	neunzig	*(noin-tsig)*
100	hundert	*(hun-dert)*

Days of the Week

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
Monday	Montag	*mawn-taak*
Tuesday	Dienstag	*deens-taak*
Wednesday	Mittwoch	*mit-vokh*
Thursday	Donnerstag	*do-ners-taak*
Friday	Freitag	*frai-taak*
Saturday	Samstag	*zams-taak*
Sunday	Sonntag	*zon-taag*

Menu Savvy

ENGLISH	GERMAN	PRONUNCIATION
I would like to book a table for 8pm	Ich möchte für zwanzig Uhr einen Tisch reservieren	*ish mer-shte foor tsvan-tsig oor ai-nen teesh re-zer-vee-ren*
For two/four people	für zwei/vier Personen	*foor tsvai/feer per-zoh-nen*
Breakfast	Frühstück	*froo-shtook*
Lunch	Mittagessen	*mi-taak-essen*
Dinner	Abendessen	*ab-end-essen*
Coffee and cake	Kaffee und Kuchen	*ka-fe unt koo-khen*
The menu please	die Karte, bitte	*dee kaar-te bi-te*
Waiter/waitress	Herr Ober/Fräulein	*hair oh-ber/froy-lein*
A knife	ein Messer	*ain me-sser*
A fork	eine Gabel	*ai-ne gah-bel*
A spoon	ein Löffel	*ain loo-fel*
A cup	eine Tasse	*ai-ne ta-sse*
A glass	ein Glas	*ain glahs*
A plate	ein Teller	*ain te-lair*
A bowl	eine Schüssel	*ai-ne shoo-sel*

Index

See also Accommodations and Restaurant indexes, below.

1001 Seife, 89

A

Access America, 170
Accommodations, 140–150. *See also* Accommodations Index
  apartment rentals, 169
  best, 140
Admiralspalast, 138
Air Service Berlin, 47
Airport Express, 167
Airports, 166–167
Alba Berlin, 138
Alexanderplatz, 64
Alte Nationalgalerie, 68
Alte Stadtmauer, 65
Altes Museum, 68
Altes Rathaus (Potsdam), 157
Am to Pm, 129
American Express, 170
Ampelmann Galerie Shop, 54
Anette Petermann, 89
Antiques, 88
Apartment rentals, 169
Apple Center M&M: Trading!, 93
AquaDom & Sea Life Berlin, 28
Arsenal, 137
Art museums
  Alte Nationalgalerie, 68
  Altes Museum, 68
  Bildergalerie (Potsdam), 158
  Bode Museum, 69
  Bröhan Museum (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
  Deutsche Guggenheim, 80
  Gemäldegalerie, 60–61
  Hamburger Bahnhof, 12
  Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum, 76
  Kunstgewerbemuseum, 60
  Museum Berggruen (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
  Neue Nationalgalerie, 61
  Pergamon Museum, 9
Arts and entertainment, 132–138
  best, 132
Astro Bar, 124
Atlantis, 129
ATMs/cashpoints, 169
A-Trane, 137
Auto Europe, 166
Avis, 166

B

Badeschiff, 3, 126
Bali Lagoon (Tropical Islands), 161
Balinese Garden, 104
Balloon (Tropical Islands), 161–162
Bang Bang Club, 126
Bangaluu, 126
Banking hours, 169
Bar Jeder Vernunft, 135
Bar Nou, 73, 118, 128
Barefoot Berlin, 94
Bars and lounge bars, 124–126, 128, 129
Bauhaus-Archiv, 41
Beach and canalside bars, 126
Bears, 65
Bebelplatz, 32–33, 82
Beer gardens, 20–23, 130
Belvedere (Schloss Charlottenburg), 154
Berghain-Panorama Bar, 126–127
Bergmannstrasse, 73
Berlin Airlift, 47, 54
Berlin Beer Festival, 23
Berlin Fairytale Festival, 165
Berlin Hi-Flyer, 46
Berlin International Beer Festival, 165
Berlin Literary Festival, 165
Berlin Marathon, 165
Berlin Philharmonie, 39, 60
Berlin Sculpture, 77
Berlin Tourismus Marketing GmbH, 164
Berlin Tourist Information, 148
Berlin Wall, 3, 16, 55
Berlin Wall History Mile, 55
Berlin Zoo, 26–27, 75
Berlinale, 166
Berliner Dom, 9, 46, 67–68
Berliner-Kindl-Schultheiss Brewery, 23
Berliner Klamotten, 89
Berliner Philharmoniker, 136
Berliner Unterwelten, 34
Berliner Weisse mit Schuss, 21
BerlinLinienBus, 167
Berlinomat, 88
Beuys, Joseph, 12
B-Flat, 137
Bier-Spezialitäten-Laden, 22
Big Butterfly (sculpture), 12
Bijou, 93
Biking, 168–169
  Fat Tire Bike Tours, 61
Bildergalerie (Potsdam), 158
Bismarck Memorial, 97
Bode Museum, 69
Boltanski, Christian, 33
Bonbonmacherei, 27–28, 90–91
Books in Berlin, 88
Bookstores, 88
Botanischer Garten, 100
Brandenburg Gate, 3, 7, 80
Breitscheidplatz, 77
British Embassy, 38
Britspotting, 164
Bröhan Museum (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
Bruderkuss (Brotherly Kiss), 3, 54
Buckles & Belts, 93
Budapester Schuhe, 94
Budget, 166
Bundeskanzleramt, 38, 59–60
Bundespräsidialamt, 38
Bus travel, 167, 168
BWTS, 69

C

Café Lebensart, 8
Café 100 Wasser, 129
Café Zapata im Kunsthaus Tacheles, 129
Camper, 94
Canada
  embassy, 169
  visitor information in, 164
Carillon, 12
Carnival of Cultures, 164
Carp Pond (Schloss Charlottenburg), 154
Car rentals, 166
Car travel, 167, 168
Cell (mobile) phones, 166
Chamäleon Varieté, 135
Charlottenburg, 153–154
Checkpoint Charlie, 15
  Mauermuseum at, 52–53
Children, families with, 26–29
Chinese Garden, 103–104
Chinese Tea House, 104
Chinesisches Teehaus (Potsdam), 159
Christmas markets (Weihnachtsmärkte), 165

Christopher Street Day, 164
Cinemas, 137, 164
CinemaxX Potsdamer, 137
Classic Open Air Berlin, 164
Climate, 166
Club der Visionäre, 126
Clubs, 126–128
Cocktail bars, 128
Columbiahalle, 137
Consulates and embassies, 169
Credit card emergency numbers, 170
CSA Bar, 128
Currency, 170
Currywurst, 3

D

Da Capo, 93
Dachkammer, 124
Daimler-Chrysler Quartier, 61
DDR Museum, 52
Demnig, Gunter, 35
Department stores and malls, 89
Deutsche Bahn, 167
Deutsche Bank building, 11
Deutsche Guggenheim, 80
Deutsche Kinemathek, 42
Deutsche Oper, 136
Deutsches Historisches Museum, 81
Deutsches Technikmuseum, 29, 71
Deutsches Theater, 138
Die Puppenstube, 94
Die Stachelschweine, 135
Dietrich, Marlene, 42
  grave of, 43
Dining, 106–116. *See also* Restaurant Index
  beer gardens, 20–23
  best, 106
Diva, 89–90
Doctors, 169
Drachenhaus (Potsdam), 159
Dussmann, 93–94

E

East Berlin, 52–56
East Side Gallery, 15, 54
EASTBERLIN, 90
EasyEverything cafés, 170
EHIC (European Health Insurance Card), 170
Einstein, Albert, 41–42
Eisenman, Peter, 7, 35
Electricity, 169
Emergencies, 169
Engels, Friedrich, 52
  statue of, 63
English Garden, 97
Erzgebirgshaus, 92
Eurolines, 167
Europa Center, 48, 89
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), 170
EuroTouring, 167

F

Fahrradstation, 168–169
Families with children, 26–29
Fasanenstrasse, 75
Fashions (clothing), 89–90
Fat Tire Bike Tours, 61
Fernsehturm (TV tower), 4, 49, 64
Festival of Lights, 165
Festivals and special events, 164–165
Festtage (Festival Days), 164
Fête de la Musique, 164
Filmmuseum Potsdam, 157
Flea market, 92
flip*flop Concept Store, 94
Food shops, 90–92
Foster, Sir Norman, 38, 46
Fountain & Spring Garden (Marzahn Gardens), 103
Frank, Charlotte, 38
Franziskaner-Klosterkirche, 65
Freischwimmer, 126
Freundschaftsinsel, 157
Friedrichstadtpalast, 135
Friedrichstrasse, 42
Funk Taxi Berlin, 168
Funkturm (Radio Tower), 43, 49

G

Gainsbourg, 128
Galerie Dogon, 88
Galeries Lafayette, 89
Gallery Schrill, 93
Gays and lesbians, 169
  nightlife, 129
Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer, 55
Gedenkstätte Deutscher Widerstand, 35
Gedenkstätte Plötzensee, 34
Gemäldegalerie, 11, 60–61
Gendarmenmarkt, 8, 82
German National Tourist Offices, 164
Gestapo (Secret State Police) headquarters, 32
Glanzstücke, 93
Glockenturm, 49
Golgatha, 130
Grimshaw, Sir Nicholas, 37
Gropius, Walter, 41
GSW-Hochhaus, 39

H

Hackesche Höfe, 11, 63
Hackeschen Höfe Film Theater, 137
Hackescher Markt S-Bahn, 63
Haifischbar, 128
Hallesches Tor Cemetery, 72
Hamburger Bahnhof, 12
Hauptbahnhof, 167
Haus der Kulturen der Welt, 12, 60
Haus der Wannseekonferenz, 101
Heilig-Kreuz-Kirche, 71
Heine, Heinrich, 82
Heinz Minki, 130
Hekticket, 136
Helgoländer Ufer, 59
Hemingway, Ernest, 42
Hertha BSC, 138
Hertz, 166
Himmelreich, 129
Hirst, Damien, 12
Hitler, Adolf, 32
Holiday Autos, 166
Holidays, 169–170
Holländisches Viertel (Potsdam), 157
Holocaust Memorial, 7–8, 35
Hotels, 140–150. *See also* Accommodations Index
  apartment rentals, 169
  best, 140
House of Villeroy & Boch, 88
Humboldt University, 41–42, 81
Hutton, Louisa, 39
Hut Up, 90

I

IMAX 3D, 29
Information sources, 164
Insurance, 170
Internet access, 170
InTouch USA, 166
Irish Embassy, 169

J

Jahn, Helmut, 61
Japanese Garden, 104
Jazz-Fest, 165
Jet Express TXL, 167
Jewish Museum, 4, 16, 38, 71
Junction Bar, 137–138

K

KaDeWe, 15, 77, 89
Kadó, 91
Kaffee Burger, 127

Kaiser-Wilhelm-Gedächtniskirche, 77
Kakao, 124
Kandinsky, Wassily, 41
Kant-Dreieck, 37, 75
Karajan, Herbert von, 39
Karl-Marx-Allee, 53
Katalka, 94
Käthe-Kollwitz-Museum, 76
Keramik Selber Bemahlen, 73
Kids, 26–29
Kinder City, 29
Kinderbad Monbijou, 28
KingKongKlub, 127
KitKat Club, 127
Klee, Paul, 41
Kleihues, Josef Paul, 37
Kleine Nachtrevue, 135
Kleine Orangerie, 154
Knaack-Club, 127
Koko von Knebel, 92
Köllnischer Park, 65
Kollwitz, Käthe, 76, 81
Komische Oper, 136
Königsberger Marzipan, 91
Konzerthaus, 136
Korean Garden, 104
Kräuterhaus Kreuzberg, 91
Kreuzberg, 3–4, 47, 71–73
Kunstgewerbemuseum, 60
Kunstliche BEATmung, 124
Kupferstichkabinett, 60
Kurfürstendamm (Ku'damm), 15, 76
Kwik Shop, 92–93

L

La Maison du Chocolat (Potsdam), 158
Landwehrkanal, 71, 97
Langhein Berlin, 90
Laub & Frey, 124
LEGOLAND Discovery Center, 26
Leysieffer, 91
Libeskind, Daniel, 38
Liebermann-Villa at Wannsee, 101
Literaturhaus, 76
Live-music clubs, 137–138
Lodging, 140–150. *See also* Accommodations Index
  apartment rentals, 169
  best, 140
Lokalkolorit, 90
Long Night of Museums, 165
Long Night of Shopping, 165
Lost property, 170
Ludwig-Erhard-Haus, 37, 75
Luisenplatz (Potsdam), 159
Lustgarten, 67

M

MaerzMusik, 164
Maestro Gelatiere, 73
Mail and postage, 170
Marathon, Berlin, 165
Marienkirche, 64
Marx, Karl, 52
  statue of, 63
Marx-Engels-Forum, 52, 63
Marzahn Gardens, 103–104
Mauermuseum at Checkpoint Charlie, 53
Mausoleum (Schloss Charlottenburg), 154
Maxim Gorki Theater, 138
May Day, 164
Maze and Labyrinth (Marzahn Gardens), 103
MEDEX Assistance, 170
Mehringdamm, 73
Mielke, Erich, 56
The Missing House, 33
Miss Marple, 88
Mobile (cell) phones, 166
MoneySupermarket, 170
Moore, Henry, 12
Morgenrot, 129
Museum Berggruen (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
Museum Blindenwerkstatt Otto Weidt, 33
Museum für Naturkunde (Natural History Museum), 27
Museum Island, 67–69
Museumsdorf Düppel, 100
Mutter mit totem Sohn, 81

N

Natural History Museum (Museum für Naturkunde), 27
Nazi regime (National Socialism), 32–35
Neptunbrunnen, 63–64
Neue Nationalgalerie, 61
Neue Pavillon (Schloss Charlottenburg), 154
Neue Synagoge, 12
Neue Synagogue, 11, 33
Neue Wache, 81
Neuer Garten (Potsdam), 158
Neuer See, 97
Neues Palais (Potsdam), 159
Newton, 124
New Year, 165
New Zealand Embassy, 169
Nibs Cacao, 76
Nightlife, 4, 118–130
  best, 118
Nikolaikirche (Potsdam), 157
Nikolaiviertel and environs, 4, 9, 63–65
Norbert Hüsken, 88

O

Ökomarkt Kollwitzplatz, 92
Olympic Stadium, 49
Open-air Cinema, 164
Orangerie (Potsdam), 159
Oriental Garden, 103
Ort der Information (Information Center), 8
Oscar Wilde Pub, 130
Oxymoron, 127

P

Panoramapunkt Potsdamer Platz, 47
Parfum nach Gewicht, 3, 88–89
Park Sanssouci (Potsdam), 158–159
Parterre (Schloss Charlottenburg), 154
Passports and visas, 170
Paule's Metal Eck, 124
Penthesileia, 90
Pergamon Museum, 3, 9
Perlin, 93
Pesto Dealer, 91
Pfaueninsel (Peacock Island), 101
Piano, Renzo, 61
Planck, Max, 42
Popkomm, 165
Post offices, 170
Potsdam, 157–159
Potsdamer Platz, 11, 39, 61
Prater, 130
Puppentheater Berlin, 27

Q

Quasimodo, 138

R

Radio Tower (Funkturm), 43, 49
Rainfall, 165
Rainforest Camp (Tropical Islands), 162
Rathaus Schöneberg, 55–56
Rattle, Sir Simon, 60
Rauch, Christian Daniel, 81
Razzia im Budapest, 125
Reagan, Ronald, 7
Reichstag, 3, 7, 38, 46

Reingold Lounge, 125
Reiterstandbild Friedrich des Grossen, 81
Rembrandt van Rijn, 11
Restaurants, 106–116. *See also* Restaurant Index
  beer gardens, 20–23
  best, 106
Rhododendron Grove, 103
Ribbeckhaus, 67
Riehmers Hofgarten, 16, 72
Riva, 128
River Spree, 97
RoadPost, 166
Römische Bäder (Potsdam), 159
Rosenthal Studio-Haus, 88
Roses, 129
Rotes Rathaus, 64
Russian Embassy, 80

S

Sage, 127–128
Sagers, 91–92
Sauerbruch, Matthias, 39
Savignyplatz, 76–77
S-Bahn, 167, 168
Scharoun, Hans, 39
SchauLUST museum pass, 68
Schiller, Friedrich, 8
Schinkel, Karl Friedrich, 157
Schloss Bellevue, 13, 59, 97
Schloss Charlottenhof (Potsdam), 153–154, 159
Schloss Sanssouci (Potsdam), 158
Schlossbrücke, 67
Schlossgarten, 153–154
Schlossstrasse, 155
Schönefeld Airport, 166, 167
Schultes, Axel, 38
Schustehrus Park (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
Schwarzes Café, 129–130
Schwuz, 129
Scratch Records, 94
Seasons, 164
Senf Salon, 72–73
Serendipity, 93
Shalechet (Fallen Leaves), 16
Shopping, 84–94
Siegessäule (Victory Column), 13, 48, 59
Silberfisch, 125
Simon-Dach-Strasse, 4
Sizilianischer Garten (Sicilian Garden; Potsdam), 159
Sony Center, 89, 170
SO36, 129
South Sea (Tropical Islands), 162
Soviet War Memorial, 34–35
Space Beach, 126
Spazio Feinkost, 92
Special events and festivals, 164–165
Spectator sports, 138
Speer, Albert, 32
Speiches R&B Kneipe, 125
Spreewald, 161
Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, 81
Staatsoper Unter den Linden, 137
Stasi Museum, 56
Stauffenberg, Claus von, 35
Steiff, 94
Story of Berlin, The, 76
Strandbad Wannsee, 29, 100–101
Strandbar Mitte, 69
Strandgut, 126
"Stumbling blocks" along Kantstrasse, Oranienstrasse, and Kurfürstendamm, 35
Sultan Hamam, 73
Süsskram-Dealer, 43

T

Tabou Tiki Room, 125
Tag der Deutschen Einheit, 165
Tanz im August, 164–165
Tausche, 90
TaxiFunk Berlin GmbH, 168
Taxis, 167, 168
Teeladen, 92
Tegel Airport, 166
Tempelhof Airport, 166, 167
Tempelhof Luftbrückendenkmal, 54
Temperatures, 165
Thatchers, 90
Theater, 138
Theater des Westens, 75, 138
Tiergarten, 4, 48, 59–61, 97
Tip (magazine), 136
TIPI, 135–136
Topography of Terror, 32
Tourist information, 164
Trabant (Trabi), 3, 53
Trabi Safaris, 53
Train travel, 167
Transmediale, 165
Transportation, 168–169
Travel Assistance International, 170
Travel Guard International, 170
Travelex Insurance Services, 170
Travel Insured International, 170
Traveling to Berlin, 166–167
Tropical Islands, 161–162
Tropical Village (Tropical Islands), 161
Tropino Club (Tropical Islands), 161
Turkish Market, 92

U

U-Bahn, 168
Underground attractions, 34
United Kingdom
  embassy, 169
  visitor information in, 164
United States
  embassy, 169
  visitor information in, 164
Unter den Linden, 8, 80

V

Victoria Bar, 128
Victoria statue, 13, 59
Viktoriapark, 47, 73
Villa Oppenheim (Schloss Charlottenburg), 155
Visas, 170
Visitor information, 164
Vodafone, 166
Vrubel, Dimitrij, 54

W

Walking, 169
Wannsee, 4
Warhol, Andy, 12
Watergate, 128
Waterslide Tower (Tropical Islands), 162
Weather, 166
Websites, useful, 166
Weidt, Otto, 33
Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas markets), 165
Wellness Landscape (Tropical Islands), 162
Wilhelmstrasse, 32
Wintergarten Variété, 43, 136
Winterwelt, 165
World Clock, 64
Würgeengel, 125

Z

Zentraler Omnibusbahnhof/ZOB, 167

Zollpackhof, 13
Zoo, Berlin, 26–27, 75

Accommodations

Adele Hotel, 145
Agon Frankfurter Allee, 145
Arcotel Velvet, 145–146
Arte Luise Kunsthotel, 146
Askanischer Hof, 146
Bleibtreu Hotel, 146
Courtyard Berlin City Center, 147
Eastern Comfort, 147
EastSeven Hostel, 147
Heart of Gold Hostel, 147
Honigmond, 147
Hotel 26, 145
Hotel Adlon Kempinski, 145
Hotel Art Nouveau, 146
Hotel Bogota, 146–147
Hotel Q!, 149–150
Hotel Riehmers Hofgarten, 150
Ku'Damm 101, 147–148
Luisenhof, 148
Lux 11, 148
Mandala Hotel, 148–149
Motel One, 149
Myer's Hotel, 149
Ostel, 56
Pension Funk, 149
Pension Rotdorn, 149
Propeller Island City Lodge, 149
Radisson SAS Hotel, 150
Upstalsboom Hotel, 150
Westin Grand, 150

Restaurants

Amrit, 111
Anatre, 12
Anna Blume, 111
Anna e Bruno, 111
Atame, 111
Bar Vereinszimmer, 47
Basil, 111
Berliner Eismanufaktur, 111
Borchardt, 111
Brewbaker, 21
Café am Neuen See, 20, 59, 97
Café Einstein, 41
Café Lebensart, 8
Cafe Max, 101
Café Pergamon, 69
Café Sibylle, 54
Capt'n Schillow, 27
Curry 36, 16
Dada Falafel, 33
Die Quadriga, 111–112
Dressler, 112
Fassbender & Rausch, 112
Frida Kahlo, 112
Funkturm Restaurant, 43
Georgbräu, 22–23
Godot, 112
Hans Wurst, 112
Hasir, 112
Heinz Minki, 22
Henne, 112–113
Hot Dog & Burger World, 113
Hotel Adlon, 80
Il Casolare, 113
Jabarimba, 161
Kaffee Burger, 127
Kartoffelkeller, 113
Le Lamian, 4, 113
Le Piaf, 113
Lon Men Noodle House, 113
Mar y Sol, 113–114
Margaux, 114
Mauerblümchen, 55
Mey, 114
Miro, 114
Mommseneck: Haus der 100 Biere, 21–22
Monsieur Vuong, 114
Moon Thai, 114
Mr Hai & Friends, 114
Mustafa's Gemüse Kebab, 72
Nibs Cacao, 76
Paris Bar, 77
Pergamon Museum, 69
Prater, 23
Quchnia Kulturcafé, 82
Refugium, 114–115
Reinhard's, 48
Repke Suppenkantine, 115
Riehmer's, 115
Sale e Tabacchi, 15
Schlemmerbuffet Zach, 115
Schleusenkrug, 20
Schneeweiss, 115
Schwarzes Café, 37
Soup-Kultur, 39
Sumo, 115–116
Telecafé, 49
Tuan's Hütte, 116
Vino e Libri, 116
Vitrum, 116
Yosoy, 63
Zollpackhof, 21
Zum Nussbaum, 9, 116
Zur Letzten Instanz, 65, 116

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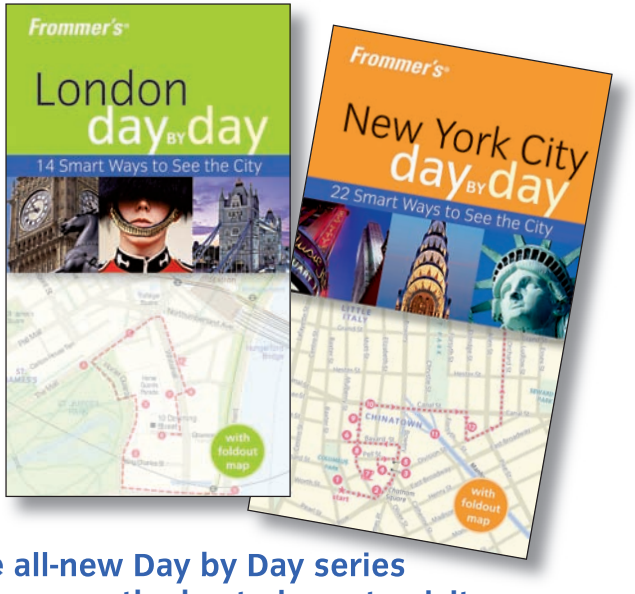

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